

Applicant numbers fall amid recession

By Cloe Shasha
STAFF WRITER

The country's stumbling economy has led to a drop in applicants to private colleges — including Middlebury. In January of 2008, soon after the regular decision deadline, the College had received 7,641 applications. This year, by the same time, the number had dropped by 12 percent to 6,771 applicants. The final count, however, is likely to change once more applications are processed.

"Ultimately, that number grew from 7,641 to 7,823 last year," said Dean of Admissions Robert Clagett, referring to the eventual increase in applicants following the Jan. 1 deadline. "So I am guessing that the number will increase somewhat this year as well."

A procedural change may also have contributed to the decrease in applicants, said Clagett. Until this year, Middlebury did not require an application fee up front. As a result, a greater percentage of students ul-

timately withdrew their applications than is the case at similar liberal arts colleges. This year, the College requested the application fee or the request for a fee waiver at the start of the application process.

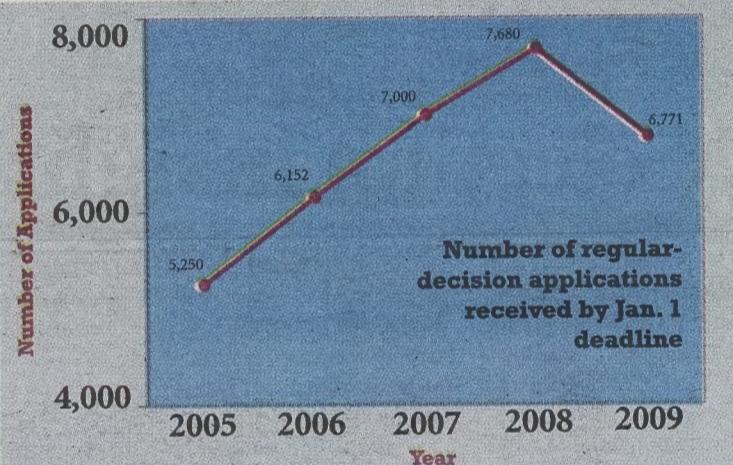
"Due to this change, we were already anticipating about 700 to 800 fewer applicants this year than we had last year, and that appears to have been about on target," Clagett continued.

Sofia Zinger '11, a student tour guide, has noticed some changes in the numbers of prospective students visiting Middlebury.

"There is always a drop in the number of people who attend tours in the winter season, so it's hard to tell if the economy has had an effect on applicants," Zinger said. "But this past summer I worked in the admissions office, and starting in July and continuing into the fall there were fewer people interviewing."

According to *The New York Times*, some schools are suffering as

SEE APPLICATIONS, PAGE 3



LaBolt dissects '08 election

By Jaime Fuller
NEWS EDITOR

Former Press Secretary for Barack Obama Ben LaBolt '03 dissected the President-elect's successful campaign strategy in a lecture sponsored this Friday by the Rohatyn Center for International Affairs and the Career Services Office. LaBolt's remarks, titled "What It Took: Reflections on Barack Obama's Unlikely Path to the Presidency," provided an inside glimpse into the 2008 election season, and were especially relevant in light of Obama's approaching Jan. 20 inauguration.

Leng Professor of International Politics Allison Stanger introduced LaBolt, informing the audience of his unique distinction of being one of two students who decided to take an oral examination in lieu of a written one in her course on American foreign policy. He aced the exam, and Stanger noted that she was not surprised that LaBolt now made a living by speaking.

"The dirty little secret about the oral presentation was that I just couldn't write another paper," LaBolt replied.

LaBolt's lecture focused on a topic that even politically attentive audience members may not have been familiar with, the high level mechanics of running a successful political campaign, which he acknowledged is "not something you learn at Middlebury." His remarks served as a quick course of "Campaigning 101" for the crowd of students, faculty and community members, and as an exclusive look into "one of the unluckiest campaigns for the presidency in U.S. history."

LaBolt acquired much experience in campaign management after his graduation, working as press secretary and legislative assistant to Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky (D-Ill.) and spokesman for then-Congressman Sherrod Brown's (D-Ohio) successful race for the U.S. Senate. He also learned how a healthy campaign could fail suddenly while working for Vermont Governor Howard Dean's unsuccessful bid for the presidency in 2004. LaBolt's role as Obama's spokesperson has lifted him to the eye of a national audience, and he is often quoted by such political news standbys as *Politico*, CNN, MSNBC and *The New York Times*.

Obama's win in the Iowa caucus was described as being instrumental to his victory in the Democratic primary, and LaBolt said that the win was "part of the original strategy that [we] would have incredible momentum out of the Iowa caucus that couldn't be stopped."

The New Hampshire primary helped give the campaign some per-

SEE ANECDOTES, PAGE 2



Budding Buddhists?
Workshops by Tibetan monks and scrapbooking

Italians open eyes, page 12.

Go Big, or Go Home
Johnson Memorial Building graced by large-format drawings, page 16.



By Kelly Janis
NEWS EDITOR

The College is mobilizing to cope with an anticipated \$9 million to \$10 million budget shortfall for fiscal year 2010, eliminating at least 100 staff positions and weighing cuts or changes to auxiliary operations such as the Snow Bowl, golf course, bookstore and The Grille.

The losses are a product of diminished philanthropic support in light of the global financial crisis, as well as a dramatic decline in the

value of the College's endowment, which supports 25 percent of the budget.

"Our long-term financial model assumes a nine percent annual return on the endowment, but instead of growing, our endowment shrank by 19 percent between July 1 and Nov. 30," President of the College Ronald D. Liebowitz wrote in a Dec. 22 message to the College community.

The extent of the decline is expected to reach 25 percent by the end of the College's fiscal year in June. This marks the second time in two years that the endowment return has been negative. Current projections suggest a flat return for

next year, according to Vice President for Administration and Chief Financial Officer Patrick J. Norton.

"The impact to our operating budget will therefore be felt for longer than three years," Liebowitz wrote, "and, because deficits compound each year, it is crucial that we make reductions sooner rather than later."

To this end, the Budget Oversight Committee (BOC), which convened in the fall to recommend budget cuts to the president, is increasing its number of meetings from one to two a week during the Winter and Spring terms.

SEE BUDGET, PAGE 2

Sharpton to deliver civil rights address

By Jaime Fuller and Tamara Hilmes
NEWS EDITORS

The Middlebury College Activities Board (MCAB) announced on Jan. 13 that activist The Reverend Alfred Sharpton, Jr. will be speaking at the College on Feb. 11.

Sharpton will speak at Mead Chapel, and a live feed will allow people to watch the address from the newly-renovated McCullough Student Center, and possibly Dana Auditorium.

The MCAB Speakers' Committee is also working on creating a free ticketing system that will prioritize students so that those who attend Middlebury will be able to fill the front rows and not have to wait outside for what will most likely be a well-attended event.

The Speakers' Committee is annually responsible for planning and providing funds for one "big

speaker" to come to the campus. This year, the committee decided to spend their \$40,000 budget to bring Sharpton to Middlebury after months of deliberation.

The committee's budget,

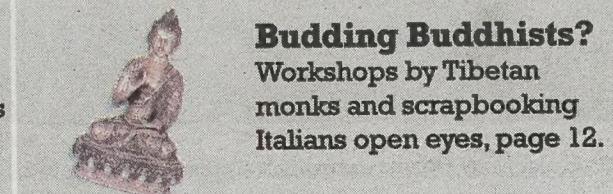
SEE PREACHER, PAGE 3



Courtesy
Rev. Al Sharpton will speak on social justice and civil rights at the College.



Midd Moolah
Middlebury mint goes into business as town creates own currency, page 6.



Go Big, or Go Home
Johnson Memorial Building graced by large-format drawings, page 16.



Budget to face major reductions next year

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Some of the measures it is considering are drawn from the 150 to 200 cost-cutting ideas submitted online by members of the College community. Norton said that although those suggestions are reviewed and "taken very seriously," many of them — such as using less paper, or adjusting the thermostat — are dealt with on the local level, rather than being put before the committee.

"We want to deal with big ticket items, where we can get the most bang for the buck," Norton said.

Chief among these items are auxiliary operations such as The Grille, The Juice Bar, The Snow Bowl, Ralph Myre Golf Course, The College Bookstore, catering services and the new student social space at 51 Main Street.

"The budget provides a tremendous subsidy to keep these units operating the way they're operating," Norton said.

As a result, discussions of how to make them more profitable are underway.

"There will be some changes," Norton said. He predicted that the majority of them — particularly in the case of the Snow Bowl and golf course — will be rooted in matters of management and pricing, rather than drastic overhauls of service.

As the College's vice presidents exercise a process of "prioritization" to extract five percent of all discretionary spending from their budgets, there may also be changes made to social events and other components of student life. The social life on campus may have to be altered if students do not want to see the comprehensive fee rise yet again.

"We're not going to be raising tuition a huge amount to cover this shortfall," Norton said, but added that determining the comprehensive fee is "a part of the budget process" and remains to be seen until a meeting with Trustees in February.

In an effort to approach the situation from what Norton called "a position of strength," College officials are seeking silver linings to the budget troubles.

The "financial challenge FAQs" on the budget office's Web site suggest, for instance, that spending cuts may accelerate the achievement of carbon neutrality "if the ultimate reductions are made in areas that typically contribute to the institution's carbon footprint."

Norton reported that the "shiny, new" \$11 million biomass facility behind the Service Building is already burning wood chips. When it is fully functional by the end of the month, he said, it will "get us a long way toward carbon neutrality."

"We would look at any financially positive ideas around carbon neutrality, for sure," Norton said. "If it makes economic sense, we would look at any idea."

Recommendations will be made public on the College's Web site as they are approved. Norton said he expects the first batch to be posted shortly.

"We're trying to be as open and honest and transparent around this process as is possible," he said.

Nevertheless, members of the nine person committee of administrators, faculty, staff and students have been instructed to remain tight-lipped.

Although Assistant Banquet Chef Patricia McCaffrey initially agreed to an interview, she later declined.

"Regrettably, we were all reminded this morning that only Patrick Norton, the committee chair, is to be the spokesperson for the committee," she wrote in an e-mail. "All interviews are to be referred to him. About all I can say is that I am Staff Council President this year. That is why I was asked to be on the committee to represent staff. Sorry — I cannot comment further."

The remainder of the committee's members were similarly unavailable for comment. Norton said later that his role as sole

spokesperson was intended to ensure that the group's message is consistent, and that confidential items are not leaked to the public. He will continue to relay this message to the community in a series of open meetings planned for Winter Term.

Some members of the Student Government Association criticized one such presentation given in the fall. A Nov. 6 article in *The Middlebury Campus* noted that "certain senators expressed reservations about the glib and polished nature of the presentation, and skepticism about the large volume of information thrown at the joint session in a short period."

"I get the feeling they're trying to sell us on something," senator Annie Weinberg '10 said after the meeting.

Norton laughed when the passage was recited to him. He said he took "polished" as a compliment, and acknowledged that there are bound to be critics of the plan.

"We didn't want to make the presentation less informative," he said. "What I heard from some students is that they were thankful we didn't dumb it down for them. As far as selling? It's all there. We're being as transparent as we can. It's definitely not a sell job."

Norton called the committee's evaluation of recommendations "a good process," and suggested it might continue, in some form, in the future.

"Obviously, we're doing this under the duress of the financial challenges," Norton said. "But maybe when we're not under duress, we could do it as well."



Grace Duggan, Photo Editor

GLASS CHILDREN PERFORMS AT FIRST COFFEE HOUSE OF 2009

The Middlebury College Activities Board (MCAB) kicked off the new year with the usual Trivia Night, Coffee House and Pub Night during the first week of classes. Other upcoming MCAB events include the Martin Luther King, Jr. keynote address and the Dead Jetsons performing at Pub Night — both on Jan. 15.

Anecdotes provide election insight

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

spective — they realized that Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-N.Y.) was still a formidable opponent and that Obama's victory was not inevitable.

LaBolt remembered thinking that Obama's high popularity among college students in Hanover would not necessarily deliver victory, especially when they had failed to support the young senator at campaign events on the day of the primary.

The campaign had sponsored an event at Dartmouth College, but the college population in attendance was sparse while the overwhelming

number of approximately 550 journalists was daunting, especially with the forecasted victor's foreboding sense of defeat permeating the state race.

"I'm in the room with all the media, and

none of the staff are there," said LaBolt. "I'm starting to get less and less information, and the press is getting more and more hungry for numbers or something concrete ... and they start surrounding me. I get a call back from headquarters, and they say 'you should probably get out of there, we're not going to make it.'"

Less time was spent on analyzing the general election, with LaBolt conceding that "while the primary election felt epic, the general election felt like a plateau."

According to LaBolt, Obama's message of change, while never faltering, had to be supplemented with responses to the sometimes negatively charged remarks provided by the Republican Party and its candidate.

Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.), he said, was the Republican Party's perfect choice for an opponent for Obama because of his place as "every Democrat's favorite Republican." LaBolt

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Preacher scheduled for Feb. 11

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which is allotted by the Student Government Association (SGA) Finance Committee each year, consists of \$20,000 to bring high-profile speakers to the campus. Because the going rate for these speakers is usually higher, according to co-chair of the Speakers' Committee Trevor Lee '10, the committee made the decision to invite a speaker every other year, so that the budgets from both years could be combined — enabling the committee to attract a more sought-after personality.

"[Sharpton] appeals to a wide majority of people," Lee said. "He doesn't appear as intellectual as others. One thing you look for in a speaker is how intelligent he is and what he's published, but you also need someone who can actually speak. We don't want anyone being bored or falling asleep in Mead."

Lee also mentioned that the committee had managed to save money this year and could potentially bring in another rather important speaker sometime in March, though nothing is set in stone.

"When we found out that Al Sharpton was available with our limited budget, we thought he would be the influential icon we were looking for to galvanize Middkids," said Diana Chiu '10, a member of the Speakers' Committee.

To determine who the speaker would be, the committee first surveyed the student body in the fall to determine who they would like to see brought to campus.

"About one-fifth of the student body answered the survey, and we chose the speaker based on the responses," said Jeanine Buzali '09, co-chair of the MCAB Speakers' Committee.

MCAB originally considered holding the event at Pepin Gymnasium, but high production costs, coupled with the College's financial difficulties, led them to choose to hold the event at Mead Chapel instead.

Ceramics finds home

By Kelly Janis
NEWS EDITOR

As a child, Jason Sanford '10 was "mesmerized" by ceramics. When he began practicing the art as a high school sophomore, his passion was confirmed.

"I was so hooked on it," he said. "That was basically what I did during my free time."

By the time he came to Middlebury, making pottery was integral to his life.

"It was something I definitely wanted to continue, at least as a hobby," he said.

There was, however, a problem: the College offered none of the supplies or facilities necessary to support this endeavor.

So Sanford joined forces with Ben Kunkofsky '09 and Ben Winter '10 to attempt to start a student organization devoted to ceramics on campus — a process which, by his account, turned out to be "pretty arduous."

"Going in, I was pretty naive about the whole thing," Sanford said. "I thought, well, they don't have a program, but we can change that. It was a little more difficult than that. Actually, it was a lot more difficult than that."

Sanford approached official after official at the College with the idea, and was continually passed on to someone else.

"I met with a lot of people telling me that I should just give up, that it wasn't going to happen," Sanford said.

After repeated meetings with then-Dean of the College and current Acting Provost Tim Spears, they won a victory at last: Spears introduced them to Director of Cultural Activities Barbara Doyle-Wilch.

In the end, Sharpton was the top choice largely because of his ability to engage audiences and speak about current events and politics.

Born in Brooklyn in 1954, Sharpton was ordained as a minister in the Washington Temple Church of God in Christ at the age of ten. He is known for his belief in the non-violent philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi, as well as his participation in the civil rights movement of the 1960s.

Though his recent bid for the 2008



Andrew Ngeow, Photo Editor

Students hard at work at 75 Adirondack View.

"Barbara was literally a godsend in the process," Sanford said. "She was on our side. We could not have met a better person for what we were doing."

At first, the Old Stone Mill was considered as a possible location, but ultimately a home was found at 75 Adirondack View — a building previously slated to be torn down, where the club opened its doors on Jan. 7. No set schedule has been agreed on, but monitors have agreed to preside over the space at various intervals throughout the day, depending on need. Interested students can purchase memberships for \$50 for Winter Term, \$125 for Spring Term or \$150 for both.

Democratic presidential nomination was unsuccessful, Sharpton has been a prominent player on the American political scene for decades.

Sharpton last sought the presidency in 2004, and prior to that, ran several times for the U.S. Senate and New York City mayor's office. Despite his efforts, Sharpton has never been elected for any position. He continues to preach and currently has his own nationally-syndicated radio talk show entitled "The Al Sharpton Show," which airs daily.

college shorts

By Jaime Fuller, News Editor

GWU prepares for record-breaking inauguration

With less than a week to go, George Washington University (GWU) is preparing events for President-elect Barack Obama's inauguration on Jan. 20. Over four million people are expected to attend the event, and the day is being observed as a national holiday by most of Washington, D.C.

Because of the volume of visitors coming to the capital for Obama's historic inauguration, security will be "really, tight," according to John Petrie, GWU's assistant vice president for public safety and emergency management.

"Talks of university security are increased this time because of the number of people," he said.

Despite the logistical nightmare, Petrie said that GWU "students should expect a wonderful experience."

Leo Ribuffo, professor of history at the University, believes that the inauguration serves as an excellent introduction to the new president, but that such optimism usually does not hold strong.

"I think Americans understand really that an inauguration is like a graduation or a wedding," said Ribuffo. "There's a kind of rhetoric of great optimism and then afterward, well, maybe the graduate doesn't get the greatest job in the world. Maybe the marriage is a little rocky. But today, at least, let's look on the bright side."

— The Associated Press and The GWU Hatchet

Study finds students not as studious as expected

Fouzia Siddiqui, a neurology student at the University of Toledo Medical Center, has just published an article in the journal *Sleep Medicine* concerning the uncommon phenomenon of sleep e-mailing.

One patient she studied, a 44-year-old woman, was an insomniac and came to Siddiqui's clinic to seek medical attention as she had episodes of sleepwalking. The patient sent an e-mail while sleeping with the subject "HELP ME P-LEEEEEESE" to three of her friends. The e-mail was an invitation to dinner the next day.

"The intriguing point on this specific case was that she actually went on the computer and typed in her user-name, typed in her password and went on the Internet and typed her username and password again," Siddiqui said. "The next day, her friends called her back; she was unaware and was shocked. That's when she sought medical attention."

Another little known activity Siddiqui focused on was "Sexomnia," which involves performing sexual activities while asleep, a medical condition that can place one at risk of being accused of sexual assault.

These two rare but troubling conditions led Siddiqui to prescribe a more regular sleep schedule for college students.

"You need a good night's sleep to perform better in the day, and if you don't get a six hour sleep, no matter how much you're doing that day, the performance would not be to the level where you get a good night's sleep," she said. "[A lot of people think], 'What if I don't sleep and [nap for] an hour here and there?' or 'Maybe I can make up during the weekend.' It doesn't work like that."

— The Independent Collegian

Applications decline by 12 percent

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Nick Sohl

Student workers in the Office of Admissions sort regular decision applications after Jan. 1.

public safety log

December 13, 2008 - January 12, 2009

DATE	TIME	INCIDENT	CATEGORY	LOCATION	DISPOSITION
12/14/2008	1:30 a.m.	Student DUI	Agency Assist MPD	Pearsons	Referred to Commons Dean
12/14/2008	10:00 p.m.	Theft from public space	Computer charger	Battell South	Referred to Commons Dean
12/23/2008	11:05 a.m.	Theft of containers	Unfounded	McCardell Bicentennial	Referred to Commons Dean
1/7/2009	11:00 a.m.	Theft from public space	Mop bucket with ringer	DKE Alumni House	No Suspects
1/9/2009	10:33 p.m.	Vandalism	Damage to wall in 2nd floor hallway	Le Chateau	Referred to Commons Dean
1/12/2009	7:26 a.m.	Vandalism	Vending machine	Hepburn	No Suspects

The Department of Public Safety reported giving six alcohol citations between December 13, 2008 and January 12, 2009.

Lindholm assumes leadership of Cook Commons

By Tamara Hilmes
NEWS EDITOR

Former Dean of Advising Karl Lindholm was appointed dean of Cook Commons on Jan. 8 by Gus Jordan, acting dean of the College. Lindholm, who is also an assistant professor of American literature, had served as acting dean since the departure of former Dean of Cook Commons Matt Carluzzo this past August.

Carluzzo himself had succeeded David Edleson, one of the founding members of the 1998 decentralized commons system. Edleson decided to take leave of the College in 2007 due to the emergence of what he described as a "top-down" decision-making culture. Lindholm, much like Edleson, is old hat when it comes to the commons system, and was asked by Jordan to step into Carluzzo's old role this past fall on an indefinite basis.

Lindholm graduated from the College in 1967, and worked as assistant dean of students from 1976 until 1991, when things were "reshuffled."

He has been involved with the commons system since it first began in its more centralized form in 1991, when commons deans had offices not within the dorms, but in administrative buildings.

Between 1991 and 1999, Lindholm and his wife, Reginald L. Cook Professor of American Literature Brett Millier, served as the faculty heads of Atwater Commons.

"I like the commons system," said Lindholm. "I've been involved with it from the outset." He went on to explain his various roles in the student affairs sector of the College.

"I have always been available to pinch-hit for the Dean [of the College]," said Lindholm, who has published several articles and presented several times on the subject of baseball. "I have been a faculty head, Dean of Won-

I have always been available to pinch-hit for the Dean [of the College].
— Karl Lindholm,
Dean of Cook Commons

nacott, and Dean of Advising."

Lindholm explained that he has always been ready and willing to play whatever role the College needed — though he is particularly excited about his new position as commons dean, which he sees as an opportunity

to connect with students both on a student-professor basis and on a more personal level.

"There's a cliché about the work of commons deans," Lindholm

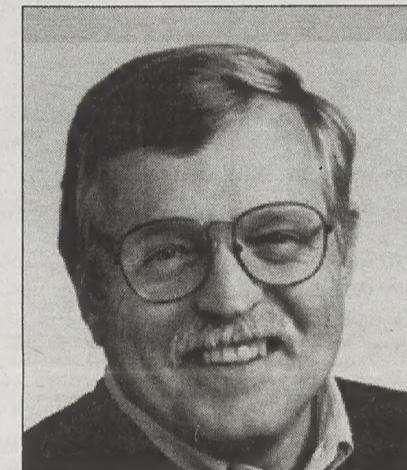
explained. "Broken windows and broken hearts. Basically what we encounter are very intense relationships with individual students in a crisis. Essentially both the beginning and ending of the relationship are based in the crisis."

The ideal dean, according to Lindholm, would combine an interest in student life with an interest in academics. In his newly acquired position, Lindholm will still be encouraged to teach at least one course a semester, a task he eagerly anticipates.

"I'm glad," he said, "It makes good use of my skills and background." Lindholm

went on to call himself a "true hybrid," referring to his ability to combine his interest in providing great "student services" and more academic goals, such as a few writing projects that he would like to complete before he turns "100 years old."

Aside from research and writing goals, Lindholm does not have an extensive roadmap for the year ahead. According to him, after next year, his future is still rather indefinite. He explained that he has no particular goals within the commons system because it



Courtesy

Lindholm, Dean of Cook Commons.

is something "natural and organic."

Over the course of his career at the College, Lindholm has been involved with all

five commons, though he admits that he still has a lot to learn about Cook. "I'm so grateful to the team that was already here," he said. Lindholm said that people like Cook Commons Coordinator Linda Schiffer, as well as C.A. Dana Professor of Italian and Cook Commons Head Patricia Zupan, have helped him immensely in adjusting to the new environment. Commons Residential Adviser Andy Mittelman '08 has also been a crucial resource.

"I'm dependent upon them," explained Lindholm. "I have not wanted to intrude and to disrupt the conventions they've found. So far I have defined the job very narrowly, and haven't gone to things like the commons council meetings. I let Andy continue to be my link there."

Overall, Lindholm admits that this appointment was made "quite by accident" and that when he was asked to stand in as acting dean, his subsequent appointment as dean of the commons was not guaranteed. Though it came somewhat as a surprise, Lindholm is thrilled with the opportunity.

"I'm happy. This is a role I like," he said. "The length of time is indefinite, but I'm old. I graduated in '63 and my future does not loom out before me. I'll do next year, then we'll see. I'm a lot older than the other deans, but they've been nice to me," Lindholm joked. "I fit the job description exactly — I'm just 25 years too late."

Middbriefs

Four faculty members promoted to position of Associate Professor, effective July

by Dana Walters, Staff Writer

On Dec. 4, the Board of Trustees granted promotions to four faculty members. This July, Assistant Professor of Psychology Jason Arndt, Assistant Professor of History Louisa Burnham, Assistant Professor of Economics Jessica Holmes and Assistant Professor of Film and Media Culture Christian Keathley will each assume the post of associate professor.

With the exception of Holmes, who joined Middlebury in 2001, each of these professors began their career at the College in 2002. Both Burnham and Holmes previously occupied positions on the Faculty Council, while Arndt acted on the Institutional Review Board and Keathley served on the Curriculum Committee.

Arndt has taught a variety of courses, from the psychology department's introductory course to a seminar on animal cognition, and focuses his research on human memory and recognition. He has published articles in *Memory and Cognition* and the *Journal of Memory and Language*.

Burnham has taught courses entitled "The Making of Europe" and "The Mediterranean World." In 2008, Cornell

University Press published her book, *So Great a Light, So Great a Smoke: The Beguin Heretics of Languedoc*. She is currently in the process of writing *Medieval Heresy: The Church's Struggle for Orthodoxy and Survival*.

Holmes focuses on health economics and economic development. She and her colleagues, Associate Professor of Economics Jeff Carpenter and James B. Jerman Professor of Political Economy Peter Matthews recently received a National Science Foundation award to study charity auctions. Holmes teaches a diverse array of courses, including "The Economics of 'Sin,'" the economics of social issues and "Public Finance."

Mark Carlow '12 described Keathley, his first-year seminar instructor, as "a professor who really tries to get his students to think about the material." Keathley helped start a service-learning project for the Vermont Folk Life Center and is currently working on a book entitled *The Mystery of Otto Preminger*.

"It was a tremendous joy for me to receive tenure," wrote Keathley in an email, "mainly because it means I will for sure be staying in a community that I love -- both the college and the town."

Anti-kidnap expert alum abducted in Mexico

by Tim O'Grady, Staff Writer

On the evening of Dec 10, Felix Batista '77 was abducted outside of an upscale restaurant in Saltillo, Mexico.

Batista resides in Miami, Fla., where he works as an anti-kidnapping expert. He is widely known and has successfully negotiated the release of hundreds of kidnapping victims in Latin America. According to ASI Global, a firm that provides security experts to protect high-profile businesspeople and their families, Batista acted as a response coordinator whose primary job was to secure the release of captives instead of jailing kidnappers.

The police invited Batista to the Mexican state of Coahuila to give seminars on security issues. He was not assigned to handle a kidnapping during the time of the abduction.

According to friends, Batista stepped outside the restaurant to answer a cell phone call. A security camera outside the

restaurant revealed that there was an SUV parked outside and that Batista entered the vehicle. However, the police are unsure whether he was hauled into the SUV forcefully, or if he got in willingly.

The incident occurred just a month after Batista said in a television interview that Mexico is one of the worst places in the world to be kidnapped.

Mexico is infamous for its high number of kidnappings. Some independent groups claim that roughly 500 people a month are kidnapped in the country.

Just a few weeks before Batista was abducted, the state of Coahuila made a public plea to reinstate a now-defunct law that sentences convicted kidnappers to the death penalty. Some believe that Batista's kidnapping was a direct response to that plea.

Batista graduated from Middlebury in 1977 and earned an M.A. in Spanish from the Middlebury College Language School in 1991.

corrections

In the Dec. 4 issue of *The Campus*, it was incorrectly reported that an anonymous donor will contribute \$1 million to the Senior Class Gift if the Alumni Office gets 60 percent of alumni to donate. In actuality, the Office of College Advancement's goal of 60 percent alumni participation will lead to an anonymous donation of \$1 million to the College. Every member of the senior class who makes a donation will be matched with a \$100 contribution from an anonymous donor. The Senior Committee set a 96 percent participation goal for current seniors. *The Campus* regrets the error.

Reaching DEEPER

By Lea Calderon-Guthe

STAFF WRITER

Town gift certificates aim to boost local economy



As businesses nationwide reported declines in holiday sales, the Middlebury community appreciated stability in local sales partly due to a gift certificate program called Middlebury Money. Community members purchased the certificates, which can be used at more than 100 stores in the Middlebury area, as a promise to shop locally, but some participating business owners remain skeptical of the program's usefulness.

Since its introduction in 1997, sales of Middlebury Money have seen moderate success in the community, but as the national economy spirals downward, concern for the local economy has remained strong. According to Gail Freidin, Executive Director of the Better Middlebury Partnership and one of the creators of the Middlebury Money program, the community expressed its concern through purchasing record amounts of the money.

"Last year \$20,000 of [Middlebury Money] was sold, and the year before, \$22,000," Freidin said. "This year, we sold \$28,000 worth. That's a 37 percent increase. It speaks volumes about people's renewed commitment in a down economy to support local businesses."

In 1997 the Middlebury Business Association (MBA) — now the Better Middlebury Partnership — introduced Middlebury Money as a way to encourage local spending. Instead of a true local currency that can be recirculated, Middlebury Money works more like a gift certificate. Local consumers buy an amount of Middlebury Money at the National Bank of Middlebury with an equal amount of U.S. dollars and then redeem the bills at participating local businesses. The businesses then cash in the Middlebury Money for U.S. dollars as if they were cashing a check.

In the weeks before the holidays, the National Bank of Middlebury (NBM) featured a promotional campaign for Middlebury Money on its website and the *Addison Independent* ran a series of ad campaigns for shopping locally. Middlebury Money has close ties with the *Addison Independent*, as a former director of advertising was one of the key players in its creation.

When the concept of Middlebury Money was first discussed, Freidin and the other community members involved in its creation did not intend to create a local currency, but they did want to stress the importance of shopping locally. At the time, universal gift certificates like Middlebury Money were available and successful in Rutland and on Church Street in Burlington. Freidin attributes the continued success of Middlebury Money to the fact that the stores that accept it are not required to give a discount to consumers. This encourages stores to participate because there is no monetary loss involved in accepting the bills.

"It's seamless for businesses to accept [Middlebury Money]," Freidin said. "Having a lot of businesses accept it is key to selling a lot of Middlebury Money."

Recent publicity has highlighted local currencies such as Burlington Bread and Berkshires in Berkshire County, Massachusetts. These communities print their own bills for local use as wages and for bartering. Although this has sparked discussion of a local currency in Middlebury, Freidin does not think Middlebury is ready yet.

"People running the businesses need to know that they can buy product or pay rent or employees with a local currency," Freidin said. "We're not quite there yet. It involves going deeper into the local economy and getting to wages and product. For a lot of stores that exist locally, their product doesn't come from Addison County, so they have to pay U.S. dollars for product. Most employees need to get paid in dollars that will be accepted for taxes and rent."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



Newly Brewed Ales
Otter Creek Brewery serves up three new lagers for the winter season, page 7.

Wall Street to Main Street
Changes come to downtown Middlebury, page 6.

A Family Affair
Sculptor Bob Crystal and son Aaron showcase art at the Town Hall Theater, page 6.



New year sees openings, closings on Main St.

By Amanda Cormier
LOCAL NEWS EDITOR

This holiday season, Middlebury shoppers, like many American consumers nationwide, witnessed the repercussions stemming from the deceptively abstract crises on Wall Street. But there is reason to believe the casualties were less severe for local businesses, especially in comparison to their counterparts and competitors in other states.

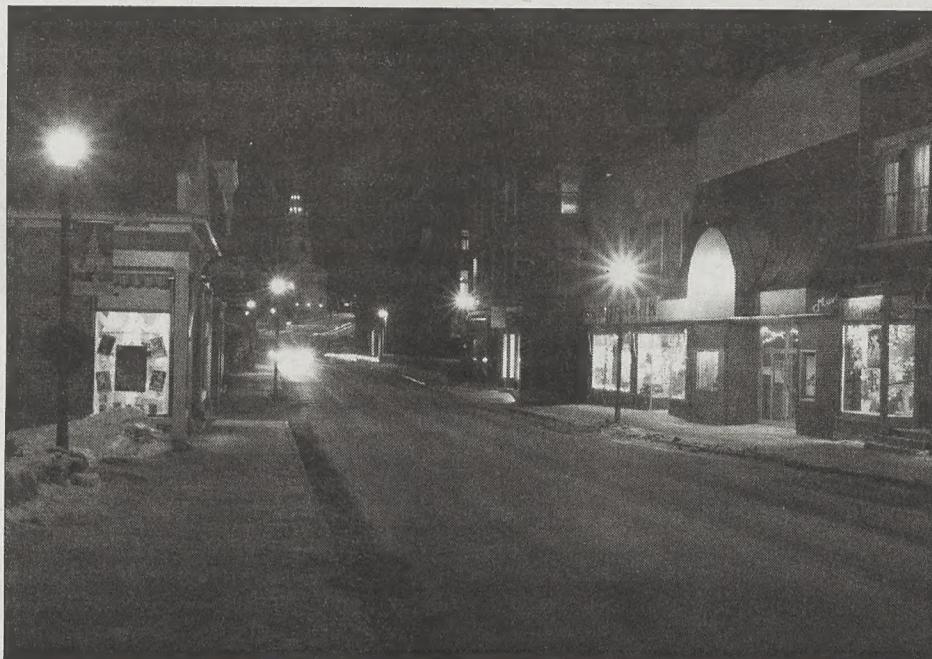
Indeed, the changing face of Middlebury's most prominent bloc of businesses — which includes the closing of a store, the opening of a restaurant and a change in ownership of a flagship establishment — is not just another product of the nationwide economic crisis.

"Generally, the businesses said things weren't as bad as expected this holiday season," said Gail Freidin, executive director of the Better Middlebury Partnership. "That's not a terribly positive statement in light of the national and world economy, but it's pretty darn good. Although December business was down, the year finished either at or about even, possibly up or down 1 or 2 percent."

The holidays provide downtown stores with the majority of yearly income, with the off-season supplemented by college parents, alumni and tourists. High rent on Main Street can make it difficult for stores to withstand the months of May through October. For this reason, Woody Jackson, artist and owner of Holy Cow, Inc., moved his studio out of its prominent Main Street location in late October. Now, it is occupied by his wife's business, Ingrid Jackson Real Estate.

"The stores that can survive [on Main Street] are the ones who can generate better income, like professional service industries," Woody said. "For Ingrid, it's the perfect location. It gets a lot of foot traffic."

The high rent of a Main Street location



The face of downtown Middlebury will see several changes through the spring. Glass Bead Game, a women's apparel store, announced its closing in late 2008.

makes it difficult for businesses on the market to find buyers. Glass Bead Game, a women's apparel store on the College end of Main Street, announced its closing after time on the market yielded no buyers. "The fact that Glass Bead Game will close doesn't mean there won't be a business there — there may be a little shuffling going on," Freidin said. "Sometimes there is a flurry of that, and other years there is not much change. I would say there hasn't been a lot of change lately."

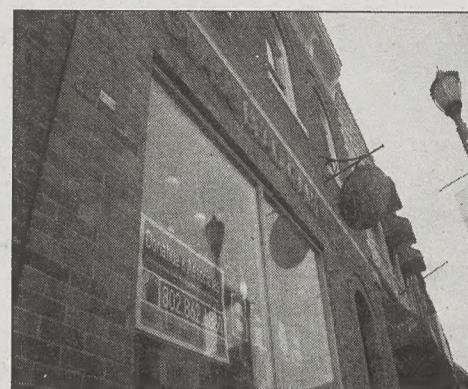
The relative stability of business in town — despite the usual difficulty of maintaining a Main Street retail location — can be partly attributed to Middlebury's focus on the local economy. According to Freidin, customers were more cautious with their money this

season.

"I do think that consumers demonstrated stronger loyalty to local businesses rather than just going and spending money anywhere."

Real estate shifts have also expressed increased desire to keep Main Street money local. Ben Franklin, Main Street's flagship general store, was recently sold to a local family that plans to retain its identity as a general merchandise store. Bonnie Gridley, owner of RE/MAX Champlain Valley Properties, said the sellers expressed a desire that the business stay in local hands.

The strength of the local economy was also the focus of a new restaurant opening on Main Street in the spring. The Farmer's Diner, a diner in Quechee that serves primarily local



Eleanor Horowitz

grown food, will open a new branch in late spring in a major downtown space. Rumors of the diner occupying the space currently held by Tully and Marie's could not be confirmed or denied by the diner's owner, Tod Murphy.

In December, Murphy held a community dinner regarding the restaurant's role in town to widespread support.

"I asked people in the community for references [for local suppliers]," Murphy said. "Eggs seem to be the big issue. There are not enough local eggs. Lots of people were excited to hear that a family-priced restaurant that is so locally oriented is coming to town. We spend about 73 cents of every dollar within 50-70 miles of the restaurant."

Murphy said he hopes that The Farmer's Diner can have a high degree of involvement with the community and College organizations. The Diner has developed several new menu items to appeal to student budgets, such as a \$5 breakfast.

"We think that having the College nearby is going to be great, and we expect our mission statement to appeal to a lot of Middlebury students," Murphy said. "A lot of the student body's worldviews on local economies seem to be similar to those in Addison County."

Cornwall sculptor exhibits new work with son

By Kaity Potak
LOCAL NEWS EDITOR

Memory may be the last thing one would expect to find at the bottom of a coffee cup. But it is memory that separates clay from any other artistic medium. Just as clay retains the movements of those who give it shape and form, Bob Crystal vividly remembers the first time he sat down at a wheel at the University of Delaware in 1969. Throwing for the first time, it was the physicality of throwing and the practicality of its result that brought Bob Crystal to pottery.

"The dynamic quality of wheel work made me a thrower, and functional clay became my focus," he has said. "I loved the idea of pots for use, that something I made might become part of someone's everyday life." A black-and-white photo from 1974 shows just this — Crystal laboring over a pottery wheel, surrounded by an array of pots and bowls designed not for china cabinets but for coffee and cereal.

What began as fascination with its functionality has since evolved into an appreciation for the aesthetic elements of clay. Now in his 40th year in the ceramics studio, Crystal's focus is shifting from the practical to the ornamental. "I started out making functional pottery and then less and less functional things, making them for art's sake," said Crystal.

This move has resulted in the ceramic murals that currently adorn the walls of Middlebury's art gallery in the Town Hall Theater. While Crystal's show actually opened on New Year's Eve in the gallery, Crystal hosted a reception on Jan. 9, and ensured that he was available for discussion with those attending.

The murals themselves, some of which reach over 15 feet wide, manage the remarkable duality of being both abstractly modern and also organically earthy. Crystal sometimes cuts the large slabs of clay into specific curves and shapes, often with strong interrupting di-

agonals, but also allows for the imperfect edges that only the kiln can create. In terms of how the ideas for his murals come about, he said spontaneity is very much a part of his process.

"Shape?" said Crystal, making a graceful sweeping gesture with his right arm and very nearly closing his eyes, "It's just a matter of getting started."

I loved the idea of pots for use, that something I made might become part of someone's everyday life.

— Bob Crystal

Crystal began creating wall-sized masterpieces two years ago in his Cornwall studio. He has since recruited the artistic talent of his son

Aaron to help facilitate the creation of these massive works. "I was always playing with clay in my dad's studio when I was a little kid," said Aaron, who is now pursuing a degree in studio arts. Aaron initially began helping out with the larger pieces that his father worked on, but has since become a regular force in his father's studio. Collaboration II, the second serious mural that Crystal and Aaron worked on together, is a source of pride for both father and son. *Cosmos*, a piece Aaron created entirely on his own, was also successful at the show as its rich midnight blue and terracotta-toned glazes garnered the

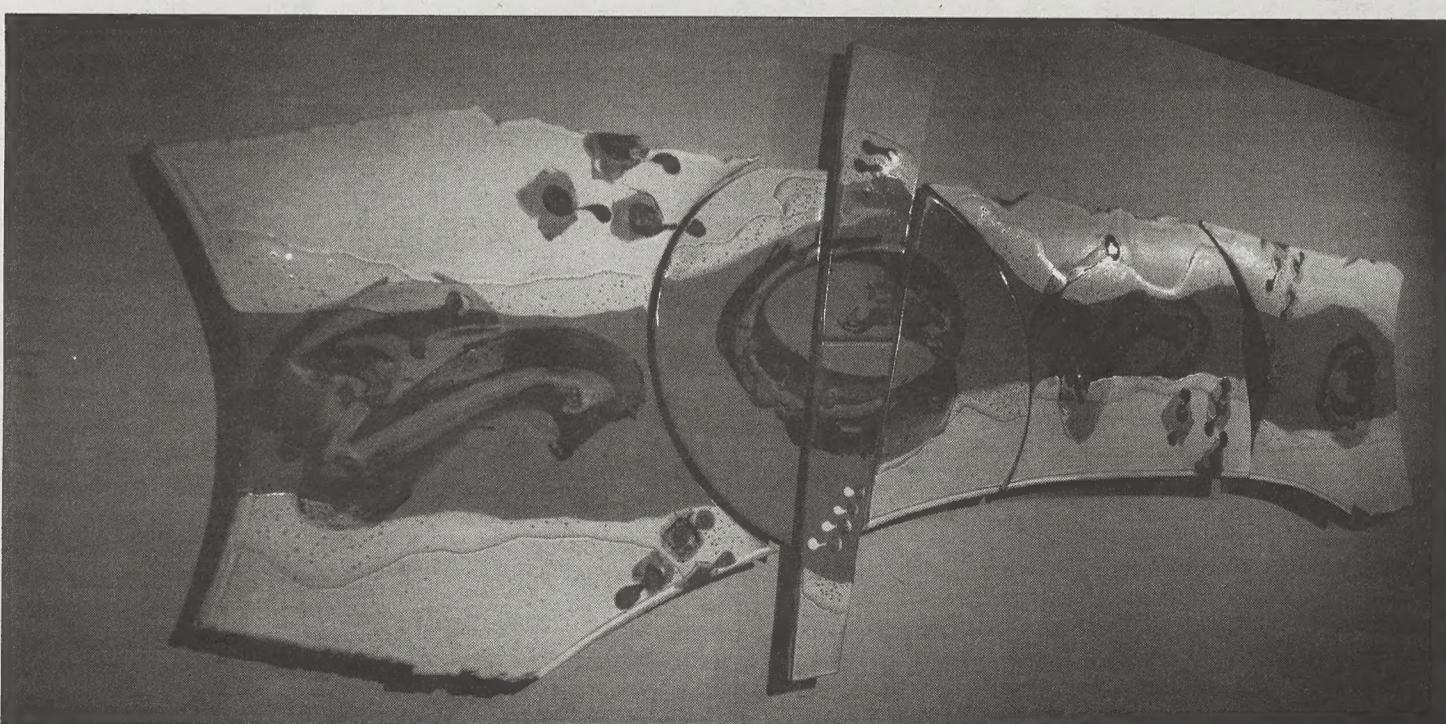
attention of everyone in the room.

"I've always loved the deep blue glaze," Aaron says in response to a comment on his color choice. "It is so different from a lot of the other pieces."

Like Aaron's color choice, the desire to discover something different seems to be what drives Crystal's art. "I am no longer limited by the wheel," said Crystal of these newest murals. "I am now able to create whatever space challenges me." One of the most striking features of these murals is the color palette that enhances the murals' commanding presence. Using naturally colored glazes such as browns, greens, gold and black, Crystal claims that color determines his approach.

"My inspiration is almost reverse of what you would expect. Rather than approach a piece with some specific theme, I approach it with color in mind," said Crystal. "I take the biggest brush I can find and I attack the piece with it, making the biggest stroke first. Then the rest of it is accentuating and balancing it."

Crystal's work and the emerging art of his son, Aaron, prove that such an attack can have wildly successful results. Crystal said he's embracing the freedom of uncertainty in the future of his work.



Grace Duggan, Photo Editor

This mural, entitled *Orchid* is one example of the wall sized works that Bob Crystal is showcasing with son Aaron at the Town Hall Theater.

Brewery unveils new 2009 brews

Imperial and All-American redefine Otter Creek lineup

By Andrea Glaessner
LOCAL NEWS EDITOR

While most Americans ring in the new year with promises to cut back on everything from carbs to cigarettes, Otter Creek Brewery shows no signs of holding back with the release of four creative brews due out this spring season. The local craft brewery has upped the ante on its selection of microbrews with the introduction of its new, high-alcohol content Imperial series. First up in the series is the new Russian Imperial Stout, containing 10.6 percent alcohol for the noblest of beer connoisseurs.

Balancing out the global with the local, Otter Creek has also just released the latest addition to the Farmers' Series — Pat Leavy's All-American, made with all-organic and all-American ingredients. Brewed with Leavy's organic Fuggles, Goldings and Magnum hops, Pat Leavy's All-American is the second beer from Wolaver's to be named in honor

Pat Leavy's All-American Pale Ale

Tumbling into the glass in a rich caramel stream topped with a slightly frothy head, the floral aroma of hops filled the room. But instead of finding bitterness that is standard in most floral-smelling brews, the beer was surprisingly "biscuity" with hints of toffee and caramel. Crafted to showcase the organic hops grown on Pat Leavy's certified organic farm in Oregon, the All-American is loaded with a variety of hops that present unique characteristics to the pale ale style.

Determined to find hops closer to home, Otter Creek's owner Morgan Wolaver, who formed a relationship with Oregon hops farmer Pat Leavy years ago, recently offered to purchase a portion of Leavy's crop output and reserve it for use in Wolaver's all-organic beers. Leavy took up the offer, agreeing to convert a large portion of his commercial hops farm to organically certified crops, allowing Otter Creek to replace the organic hops that used to come from New Zealand with Leavy's organic hops grown right in the States.

"We were getting our stuff from New Zealand, so it's really nice to know where, I mean exactly what field, your hops are coming from," said Gerhardt.

Otter Creek hopes to boost the volume of organic hops coming from Leavy's farm over the years. "Now we have contracts with Pat and we're going up in volume each year, so that we're making a commitment to him and to the brewing industry as well to push it to become 100 percent organic," said Gerhardt.

Although the beer proudly boasts its American-ness on the label and in the beer itself with organic ingredients that hail from the homeland, Otter Creek brewer Ron Cotti explained that the brew is actually styled after the English pale ale. According to Cotti, the English-style pale ale provides an excellent opportunity to highlight the flavors of Leavy's hops and also serves to differentiate the Pat Leavy All-American from the Otter Creek Pale Ale.

"The body and alcohol content in the Otter Creek Pale Ale is greater, but the amount of hops is the same, so the result is that the [Otter Creek] Pale Ale has a more bitter after-taste than the Pat Leavy," said Cotti.

The beauty of the All-American is its wide appeal to beer drinkers from novices to experts. It wins praise from the craft beer community for its unique flavor, yet at the same time, die-hard Bud fans will have a hard

time turning their noses from this straight-forward, flavorful brew.

Mud Bock

Next on the sampling tour was the Mud Bock, and this tasting took place behind the glass doors in the bustling brewing area where Gerhardt and Cotti's creative concoctions come to fruition. The beer was tasted fresh from the tank — the last stop before it is kegged or bottled into 22 oz. bottles for the World Tour and 12 oz. bottles for the variety pack.

The Mud Bock was resurrected this January as the 2009 stop on the Otter Creek World Tour, bringing devoted followers back from Japan — last year's selection was a sake-infused rice brew called Otter San — to the hills of Vermont.

A dark amber brew with a deep, roasted flavor that recalls the chocolate and coffee notes of stouts and porters, the Mud Bock falls somewhere in between the Stovepipe Porter and the Pat Leavy's All-American. And whereas the Pat Leavy showcases the hops, the Mud Bock is all about the malts. Light enough to be enjoyed with a hearty meal, but with a heavy set of complex flavors, Mud Bock has acquired a cult-like following since its introduction as a spring seasonal offering about five years ago. The last batch of Mud Bock was brewed in 2004, and devoted fans have been asking for it ever since.

Finding a niche for the beloved brew in the World Tour series, the brewery decided to put the global beer concepts on hold and focus on styles closer to home for the 2009 World Tour selection.

"This year we're staying American. It's like a staycation," said Otter Creek marketing manager Kate Corrigan.

Russian Imperial Stout

Boasting a much higher alcohol content than any other Otter Creek brew, the Russian Imperial Stout takes the meaning of Imperial to a whole new level. In this rich stout, the flavors and the alcohol were "kicked up a notch," according to Gerhardt, creating a rich, dark brew infused with chocolate and coffee flavors that pack a punch thanks to the higher-than-usual alcohol content created by using copious amounts of specially selected malts.

The new brew puts Otter Creek on the map along with other American craft brewers developing intensely flavored, high-alcohol

content beers that only get better with age. Although the fine beer fad is relatively new to American beer drinkers, consumers are quickly picking up on the trend with more and more beer drinkers preferring better-tasting, fresher, complex, albeit pricier brews like the Russian Imperial over corn-pumped "Pilsners" like Budweiser and Coors.

"Years ago," said Gerhardt, "people were content with India Pale Ale. Now they want to know about the hops, yeast and malts used in their beer. It's actually kind of flattering when people want to take your beer and replicate it at home."

According to Gerhardt, the new craft beers like the Russian Imperial have complexities that rival a lot of great wines out there.

"Not to knock the wine industry but there's a lot more going on in these beers than many wines out there," said Gerhardt. Like wine, Gerhardt explained, the Russian Imperial gets better with age, making the brew a target for "vertical tasting" — beer tasting that involves drinking consecutively dated beer to pick up on the complexities and flavors that evolve over time.

Yet even amateur beer connoisseurs can appreciate the thick, frothy stout which makes for a perfect match with a chocolate dessert, a hearty meal, or, as Gerhardt suggests, poured over vanilla ice cream for a Russian Imperial float — a truly decadent dessert fit for the aristocracy.

"The whole idea is you're not going to drink a whole bottle by yourself," said Gerhardt. "You're going to open it up among a few good friends over dinner and really enjoy it, like how you would enjoy a good bottle of wine."

At \$6.99 a bottle and a 10.6 percent alcohol content, the Russian Imperial Stout is not meant for penny-pinchers nor the faint of heart. But expensive ingredients often mean better beer, and Otter Creek brewers are not concerned that the price will deter beer aficionados.

"This is not your daddy Schlitz," said Ron Cotti, a brewer at Otter Creek. "People will pay that money because they see the value."

And as Kate Corrigan, Otter Creek's marketing director cleverly pointed out, the Russian Imperial is enjoyed differently than the chugging approach one might take to imbibe a Natty Light.

"In terms of alcohol content, one bottle is equal to about four beers," said Corrigan.

The Russian Imperial Stout is meant to be served in a glass, among friends, at cellar temperature, which is 55 degrees.

Local currencies coupled with discounts

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Before the town even considers its own currency, Freidin said a few steps need to be made towards an intermediate form of Middlebury Money — in particular, there needs to be more incentive for businesses to heighten their involvement with a currency. Paula Israel, owner of Wild Mountain Thyme, does not see much value in the current program, though she happily accepts Middlebury Money.

"I think [Middlebury Money] is OK," Israel said. "I don't know if it necessarily keeps money in town because maybe those people

who would buy Middlebury Money would spend their money in town anyway — whoever buys Middlebury Money is likely to already support local business."

Israel also says her store took in a little more Middlebury Money this year than usual, but that she would have made the same profit with or without Middlebury Money. She cited no significant change in profit for her store since Middlebury Money's inception.

For Middlebury to incorporate its own currency, Freidin said she feels larger business entities would have to make a significant and lasting commitment to re-localizing the economy.

"We want to see [Middlebury currency] happen through things like Central Vermont Public Service saying they'd take 10 percent off bill pay in Middlebury currency as part of our commitment to re-localizing," Freidin said. "It needs to be that integrated. That's kind of the next step from where we are."

Middlebury Money has enjoyed particular success this year as the community tries to defend its economy. But without the potential next steps Freidin suggests, the program will remain a far cry from becoming a currency in the true sense of the word, with complete integration into the local economy.

local lowdown

Afghanistan Discussion

Jan. 15, 7 p.m.

Author, journalist and Vermont native Mary Kerr will speak about her experiences traveling in Afghanistan with Global Exchange, a humanitarian organization dedicated to creating change through social, environmental and economic justice. Part of the Bixby Memorial Library's Third Thursdays series. Free and open to the public. Info: 877-2211.

Poetry Slam at 51 Main

Jan. 15, 7-10 p.m.

"Verbal Onslaught" is an event dedicated to sharing and listening to the performance of poetic verse inspired by Martin Luther King Jr. There will be a special appearance by poet Sonia Sanchez. Info: 443-5743.

HeART Music and Art Concert

Jan. 16 and 7 p.m.

Grammy-nominated singer Michelle Shocked will perform original songs while artist David Willardson paints live onstage to celebrate women who have brought about cultural change throughout the world. Presented by the After Dark Music Series at the Middlebury United Methodist Church on Route 7 and Seminary Street. Info: 388-0216.

Blues Concert

Jan. 17, 7 p.m.

The After Dark Music Series presents New Orleans-bred Chris Smither who will be performing Americana and blues music. Light meals and desserts will be sold before the concert at the United Methodist Church on Route 7 and Seminary Street. Tickets are on sale at Main Street Stationery and the Middlebury Inn.

Shipwreck Presentation

Jan. 21, 7 p.m.

There will be a shipwreck presentation about Lake Champlain in New Haven at the Community Library this Wednesday. Lake Champlain Maritime Museum Underwater Archaeologist Adam Kane will speak about Lake Champlain shipwrecks from the Revolutionary War to the present and show slides, drawings and videos.

The Middlebury Campus

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Editorial

The staff editorial represents the official opinion of The Middlebury Campus as decided by the editorial board.

Looking back, looking forward

For most Middlebury students, Winter Term represents a cherished exercise in relaxation. Free afternoons afford ample opportunity for skiing, snowboarding and exploring the surrounding Vermont hinterlands, while a diverse array of eye-opening workshops allow students to develop new skills or hone existing ones. Here at *The Campus*, we welcome this interruption to the typically frenetic pace of the academic year as we bid farewell to a dedicated group of mid-year graduates and anoint the new leadership of our Spring 2009 editorial board.

These administrative changes also mark the beginning of an aggressive plan to fully transform our presence on the Internet. At a time when print media organizations have begun recognizing the importance of multimedia and immediate reader feedback, we have responded by enlisting some of our knowledgeable peers to design and bring online a new, more robust *Middlebury Campus* Web site that will offer support for streaming video, bloggers, extensive commenting and more.

Yet, even amid the excitement of this ambitious project, we have not lost sight of our foremost responsibilities — to preserve Middlebury history, to provide an expressive outlet for students at the College and, as always, to ask tough questions and offer incisive reporting. As part of an effort to better fulfill those duties, we look forward to expanding the reach of our content and being more proactive in communicating with other students.

In this issue, we unveil a new and improved Opinions poll that will incorporate more detailed replies than in the past. In the months ahead, we will also strive to feature a wider range of community members on our pages and to shed light on evolving but unexplored topics through special investigative series.

One of the most invaluable resources we have as editors is the feedback we get from friends and fellow students every Thursday morning, in the dining halls and in class. Ultimately, the barometer of our success is the trust and loyalty of our readers, so tell us what you think — what you most enjoy reading about and how we can better tailor this newspaper to your interests — by sending an e-mail to campus@middlebury.edu or by filling out one of the surveys we plan to distribute in the near future.

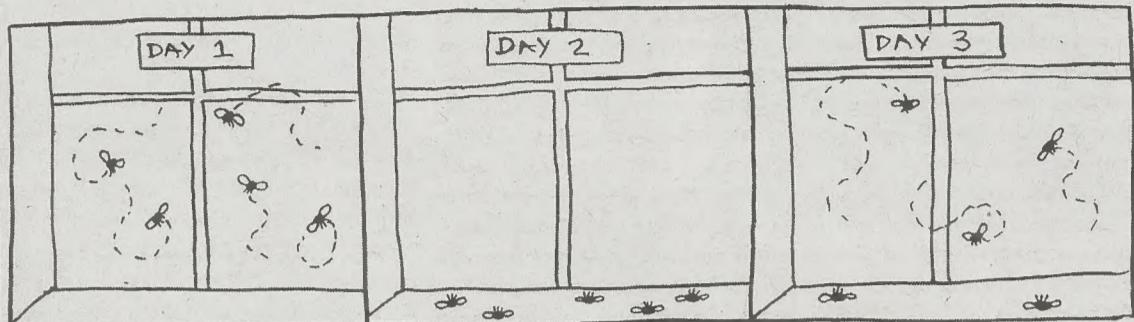
As we move ahead into the new year, your responses will help *The Campus* turn over a new leaf. Let's get cracking.

contact the campus

To contact The Middlebury Campus Publications with story tips or content suggestions, e-mail: campus@middlebury.edu or find us on the web at: www.middleburycampus.com

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THE MYSTERY OF THE FLY



John Birnbaum

Notes from the desk: Peter Baumann Everybody has an opinion. Share it.

The funny thing about a comfort zone is that it is exactly that — comfortable. You could be there because it is what you know, or what you are good at or simply where you find yourself most at home. For me, I was comfortable as editor of the sports section of *The Middlebury Campus*. During my year and a half I got to interview fascinating people, watch great games and work with a group of staff writers and co-editors that (sometimes) made spending the wee hours of the morning tucked away inside the Hepburn basement seem worth it.

So why did I shift sections? In a move that still is surprising even to myself, I decided following the graduation of that quintessential opinions editor, Alex Garlick '08.5, I would take over the reins of his section and embark upon a journey for which I, by any objective standard, am woefully unprepared.

I still don't know exactly what came over me, but I have a pretty good idea. You see, the problem with a comfort zone is that it is tough to really find out what makes you tick when you are inside of one. I moved to the opinions section of the newspaper because I wanted a new challenge — something that might cause me fits in the short term, but in the long term will emerge as an inherently positive experience.

I'm sure by now you're wondering what the point of this column is. Good question. The point of this column is to try to encourage you to step out of your own comfort zones, but before I get to that I need to first tell a few stories.

One of my best friends is leaving in three weeks to spend the spring semester in Havana, Cuba. If my move across the office was a step outside my comfort zone, her trip will be a gigantic leap. Over the past few months I have slowly started to see bouts of nervousness creep into her eyes when someone mentions her trip, but this morning an amazing thing happened. As the two of us were sitting at breakfast her BlackBerry beeped, indicating an e-mail from a mutual friend of ours who had just returned from spending his fall semester in Havana. As my friend spent five minutes reading the "to bring" and "to do"

sections of his message, I could see a degree of relaxation and calm return to her complexion. She hasn't even gotten to Cuba yet and she is already establishing a new comfort zone. One that she would have never known existed had she not stepped outside the original.

My second anecdote comes from Erin Quinn '86, the College's Director of Athletics. In an interview last semester, I asked him what compelled him to give up his successful career as a lacrosse and football coach to move into an administrative position. He said that there was more he wanted to accomplish and that while he will always miss coaching he saw the position of Athletic Director as a chance to expand and enhance his influence and vision. Today,

Try something new. Join a club, take a new class, do something that would have seemed inconceivable mere months ago. You may be surprised by what you find.

our Department of Athletics stands as a shining example of everything right with Division III athletics in large part because of the stamp that Quinn has placed upon it. He made the inherently terrifying decision to step outside of his comfort zone and anyone who has been touched by his vision can attest to his success.

Okay, I'm sorry. What's the point? The point is to encourage each of you to try something new. Join a club, take a new class, do something that would have seemed inconceivable to you mere months ago. You never know — you may be surprised by what you find.

In the same vein, take a moment to submit to the opinions section. Sure, that sentence was a shameless self-plug, but think of what these pages represent. This section is a place where the varying sentiments of the college community can congregate and be heard. Don't like an article you read? Write a letter to the editor and let us know how you feel. Disagree with something the administration has done? There exists no better place to air your grievance than here. My goal for the rest of the year is to cultivate the kind of dialogue that encourages debate within the College community. I need your help. Everyone has an opinion. Step outside your comfort zone. Share it.

PETER BAUMANN '10 IS THE OPINIONS EDITOR. HE IS FROM DENVER, COLO.

campus policies and information

The Opinions pages of *The Middlebury Campus* provide a forum for constructive and respectful dialogue on substantive issues. With this in mind, *The Campus* reserves the right to deny publication of all or part of a submission for any reason. This includes, but is not limited to: the making of assertions based on hearsay; the relation of private conversations; the libelous mention of unverifiable events; the use of vulgar language or personal attacks. Any segment of a submitted article that contains any of the aforementioned will be removed before publication. Contributors will be allowed to reference prior articles published in the Opinions section or announcements for the public record. If a reference is made to prior articles, the submission will be considered a letter to the editor. *The Campus* will not accept or print anonymous letters. The opinions expressed by contributors to the Opinions section, as well as reviews, columns, editorial comics and other commentary, are views of the individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the newspaper. *The Campus* welcomes letters to the editor at 250 words or less, or opinions submissions at 800 words or less. Submit works directly to the Opinions Editor, Drawer 30, campus@middlebury.edu or via the paper's web site at www.middleburycampus.com. To be considered for publications, submissions must be received by 5 p.m. Sunday. *The Campus* reserves the right to edit all submissions.

Lupo Fiasco: Kate Lupo The Sexism of Laughter

Aren't women funny? Aren't we just hilarious? Do you know the names of any female comedians besides Ellen DeGeneres? No? Me neither. On the flip side, I'm sure if I asked my readers to name male stand-up comedians, they would probably be able to provide a solid list. I will argue that, at least in our current society, it is hard for a woman to be funny without seriously compromising her beauty, talent and intellect. Everyday, both Hollywood actresses and regular plain Janes have to deal with the sexism of laughter.

Let's look at some pop culture examples of recently successful female comedic moments and analyze why they made both sexes laugh out loud. Reese Witherspoon's role as Elle Woods in "Legally Blonde" was hilarious because, at least in the beginning of the movie, she played the role of one of the

most endearingly dumb and helplessly silly women that has ever

graced the silver screen. How comical! Similarly, "Saturday Night Live" darling Tina Fey's career has recently sky-rocketed due to the popularity of her most amazing impression of Alaska Governor Sarah Palin who, though an admirable woman, is not the sharpest crayon in the box. Also, a lot of people think "Knocked Up" is a hilarious movie, especially when those shrill, bitchy women scream at the top of their lungs in every scene — now that's funny.

When we are laughing at Reese Witherspoon as Elle Woods or Tina Fey as Sarah Palin, we are laughing at the stereotype of the "dumb, ignorant woman" which should not be funny at all. Furthermore, most of us are probably guilty of laughing at portrayals of fat women, ugly women and women with disabilities. What female historical figure is the easiest to laugh at? That's easy: poor, blind Helen Keller!

Why, then, is Ellen DeGeneres the only female comedian who has scraped the glass ceiling of the male-dominated world of comedy? What does she bring to the table that other women don't? She succeeds because she follows no stereotypes. In fact, because she is gay, Ellen has created her own brand of humor which allows her to both make fun of and embrace the "feminine" and "masculine" aspects of her personality.

Ellen's television show is incredibly popular and on the air, she has

interviewed some of America's most important and prominent faces. Both Barack Obama and John McCain made appearances on "Ellen" during their campaign for the presidency. Before interviewing Barack Obama, Ellen had the audience in hysterics as she and Barack grooved to "Crazy Right Now" by Beyoncé. In her interview with John McCain, however, Ellen had the choice of keeping things lighthearted, but instead decided to tackle the elephant in the room. Ellen nailed McCain on the issue of gay rights and viewers watched as he writhed in his seat, saying that he and Ellen would only be able to "respectfully disagree" on the topic. In that moment, Ellen showed that she is passionate, intelligent and informed. These aspects of Ellen's personality, and particularly her intelligence, make her a successful comedienne.

Our own Middlebury College is blessed to have a few truly hilari-

ous women on campus. When I say a "truly hilarious" woman, I mean someone who can make both sexes laugh using her intelligence, wit and knowledge of current events. She does not have to act dumb or fall on her face to get a laugh. Although I won't mention names, I look up to the women of the Otter Nonsense Players who are among some of the funniest women I have ever had the pleasure of laughing at. They are every bit as funny as their male co-conspirators and equally contribute to the hilarity of their improv scenes. On that note, if you have never seen an Otter Nonsense show, then you are truly missing out on one of the best aspects of Middlebury College.

So ladies: the next time you find yourself acting dumb to get a laugh out of your guy friend, stop yourself and instead, try a little irony, sarcasm or wit. If you need inspiration, try studying famous comedians of the past, plus you will truly impress your guy friends if you can quote a whole tract from Dave Chapelle's "Killing Them Softly." Instead of glazing over when your guy friends discuss Dane Cook, actively try to be a part of the conversation. Be informed and be *confident* in your ability to make a joke, and with time and practice, you will have us all rolling in the aisles.

KATE LUPO '10 IS FROM
WESTON, CT.

15 January 2009

9

heardoncampus

I can't wait for college. There's hot chicks here!

— Ticonderoga Middle School Sixth Grader
Page 15

Shenanigans: Alex Garlick What I've learned at Middlebury

The numbers are staggering: seven semesters on campus, three J-terms, \$159,870.50 in tuition, fees, parking tickets, and deposits, thousands of printer pages that Count Paper is fretting over and a GPA that would have been sterling if my Spanish was "bueno" (sadly, it was "mucho mal"). However, there is no way to put a number on the amount I have learned here at Middlebury. But I've never let imposing odds get in the way of me taking on a challenge, except for when I quit the football team in my first year, so let me see if I can count what I've learned at Middlebury.

1. Political science. I have read so much Fareed Zakaria and Larry Diamond that I feel like we've shared Proctor paninis. I've also learned that political science does a really good job of describing *what just happened*, distinguishing it from history which describes *what's been happening*, and economics which has now shown that it can show *what will not happen next*.

2. Speaking of economics. I do love the dismal science, although to ease the enrollment, they should call it "Economics — Not Business." Also, "Intro to Macroeconomics" could use actual unemployed econ majors to demonstrate the Phillips curve.

3. Dining Halls: Here is another teaching tool. Mexican food: short term benefit, long-term consequences.

4. How to be a Feb: First advice, try not to antagonize the entire Reg population with any satiric letters to the editor of *The Campus* in your first semester. Besides that, there's not too much to it.

5. Diversity: No Elite Prep School Left Behind.

6. The judicial board: After three and a half years on the community judicial board, which hears conduct cases, I can happily report to the campus that it is blessed with hardworking, considerate and compassionate individuals on its judicial boards. These people are very successful at providing the fundamental fairness they set out to bestow on accused students, however challenging this may be. Unfortunately, the entire judicial process is flawed by its institutional design, specifically, a lack of transparency that replaces clarity with confusion. The judicial board has nothing

to hide, but as presently constructed, my conversations with students indicate that impression permeates the judicial environment. There are other areas that could use reform as well, so all I recommend to the student body is to take its rightful ownership over this process, and ensure that fairness will not be an issue.

7. Intramural Sports: You can learn all you need to know about a man, or woman, from playing intramural sports with him or her. So for all of you calling weak fouls in basketball or plowing through girls during co-ed soccer, know that you will be judged, in this life or the next.

8. Professors: Taking a class with a professor you've already had is great. It takes less time to figure out what's going on, and you usually do much better. In short, the second time is great. However, I wouldn't

use this advice when it comes to chicks or dudes you "Bunked" with on Friday night — sometimes, once is enough.

9. Career Services: They work hard, but they

don't work miracles.

10. Majors: Whatever happened to the beauty of the single major? There's no need to take on multiple majors if that action thereby defeats the purpose of having a major at all, to gain acute expertise of a subject matter. A triple major with a side of pre-med probably only has expertise in anxiety and Banner-Web.

11. Pre-med: If you are wishy-washy about going pre-med, make sure you drop it as soon as it becomes apparent it's not going to work out. Otherwise, the only thing that will make it to medical school is your GPA in cadaver form.

12. Senior Week: It's a marathon, not a sprint. And it's easy to tell who the sprinters are on graduation morning.

And so as I finally approach my own graduation morning, I will take all this knowledge with me as I bid the campus, and *The Campus*, adieu. Thanks for reading all this time.

ALEX GARLICK '08.5 IS FROM
NEEDHAM, MASS.

Op-Ed: Jacob Udell PowerShift '09

Haven't you heard? You don't need to be a vegan, drive a Prius, or know how to compost to be an environmentalist! Of course, conservation in our daily lifestyle is incredibly valuable. But rather than immediate global warming solutions, things commonly associated with environmentalism currently serve as symbols — symbols which help us drive the global change we need.

At this point, the only way we can possibly mitigate climate change to a safe level is through first national and then international legislation, and it needs to happen fast. Leading climate change scientist Rajendra Pachauri told the *Minneapolis Star-Tribune* that, "If there's no action before 2012, that's too late. What we do in the next two to three years will determine our future. This is the defining moment." Read that year again: 2012 — the last year most of us here will graduate.

Influential legislation starts with grassroots political activism, and there is no better chance to do that as a college student than at PowerShift 2009. From Feb. 27 to March 2, thousands of young adults will converge on Washington, D.C. for PowerShift 2009, the second national youth summit committed to solving the climate

justice issues, that is more than enough. Global warming has the potential to be the biggest humanitarian crisis in history. It will most devastatingly affect the rural poor, who have the least financial and technical capacity to adapt to its dangers and are most affected by fluctuations in worldwide food supply.

All of us can understand the enormous number of

injustices that the human race has committed in our history, and global warming is potentially the worst one yet. With great potential for destruction, however, comes great potential for good. Climate change is our first truly global issue, and its urgency will hopefully force us to transcend our national and cultural differences in order to overcome it.

How do we make sure that we don't read this, lament for a few moments, and then go back to our breakfast? It's easy: commit to going to PowerShift. Let's make sure Middlebury sends well over 100 students, from all over the country and the world. We'll be down in D.C. at the beginning of Barack Obama's presidency, physically taking part in actualizing the change that he has promised. We need members of the College Democrats and College Republicans, the African American Alliance and the InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, the International Student Organization and the Mountain Club, because this is a crisis that connects us all. Don't miss taking part in shaping our generation's, and the world's, defining issue.

JACOB UDELL IS FROM NEW YORK CITY.

Elephant in the Room: Stefan Claypool

The Definition of Insanity

Thirteen months into a historic recession, it's become clear that President-elect Barack Obama plans to address the crisis with a combination of neo-Keynesian policies and carefully lowered expectations. As he prepares to unleash a \$775 billion stimulus package on our country, Obama has worked hard to convince Americans that we are on the cusp of the next Great Depression, aided and abetted by an eager-to-please media desperately searching for a way to boost ratings and newspaper sales.

But what is being billed as the greatest increase in government's role in the private sector since the Roosevelt administration will most likely result not in a successful economic turnaround, but rather in a continued downward spiral that could very well make Obama's prediction of a depression a self-fulfilling prophecy. The critical point that Obama's team seems to be missing is that wealth and prosperity are derived from markets with free-flowing capital and risk-taking entrepreneurs, rather than federal programs and massive works projects.

In one of the more egregious instances of shared cultural self-delusion, modern history books proclaim that Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal rescued the American economy and ushered in a new era of prosperity. In reality, the Roosevelt programs resulted in only minimal shifts in the unemployment rate, despite a sharp increase in the number of government-sponsored jobs and public works projects. Furthermore, Roosevelt's Keynesian policies actually removed valuable capital from the private sector by reallocating equipment and personnel to government jobs. Massive tax increases did little to aid the turnaround as well. It wasn't until World War II that the fabled Roosevelt economic boom happened, about a decade too late and for reasons beyond the administration's control. The obvious lesson: that this sort of Keynesian meddling is about as useful as a urinal in a convent.

Unfortunately, that's not the lesson we took away from the experience, and now we are cursing the Greedy, Evil Corporations™ for destroying our economy and expecting Big Brother Government to step up and step in to save us from ourselves. And so we're repeating the mistakes that we made in the 1930s, and

then again in the 1970s, in the hope that this time, with this administration, maybe it will work. It's understandable — we want to believe that a benevolent government can harness the power of the economy for good, but the fact of the matter is that no managerial entity can ever truly control an economy simply because of the challenges of size and information. (I highly recommend Leonard E. Read's essay "I, Pencil" for a wonderful explanation of this principle.)

Although it has become fashionable to blame George Bush's economic policies for the crisis, it must be noted that Bush's method of handling the recession is not radically different from what Obama is proposing. In fact, the majority of Obama's plan is merely a "What Bush did, but more" package, similar to how many of Roosevelt's New Deal programs were simply the logical extensions of Hoover policies. Bush increases the federal budget by \$1.5 trillion in eight years? Obama says he'll boost it by an additional \$1 trillion in one hundred days. More bailouts? More deficits? Check and check. Not exactly change we can believe in.

And for what? So that we can shamelessly rehash failed policies in the desperate hope that maybe this time, with the right people in charge, we can spit in the face of economic reality and suffer no consequences? President-elect Obama's plan isn't about innovation and change, it's about a return to the failed policies of the 1930s and the 1970s, the Keynesian meddling that has consistently proved ineffective but is touted by elites because it shows that the government is "doing something." Well, count me among the declining number of Americans who would rather see a solution dedicated to utilizing our strengths than to stifling them. The longer we kid ourselves that this benevolent form of nationalization that President-elect Obama and his economic team are thrusting upon us is the solution to all of our problems, the longer we will suffer for it. Instead, give us a plan that emphasizes the creative powers of our private sector and provides incentives for Americans from all walks of life to help get the economy back on its feet.

STEFAN CLAYPOOL '10 IS FROM MEQUAN, WISC.



Sam Dakota Miller

Have something to say? We're listening.

e-mail campus@middlebury.edu

Op-Ed: Matt Dickinson

The Obama Presidency: What Can We Expect?

What can we expect from an Obama presidency? The next two years will be the critical period for his administration. It is the time when presidents exercise maximum influence, often with an attitude of hopefulness tinged with hubris borne from winning a two-year struggle to obtain the nation's highest office. Obama will soon discover, however, that campaigning is not the same as governing; it is far easier to promise change than it will be to implement it.

We have seen, during the transition period, early indications about how Obama plans to govern: from the center, presumably through a strategy of political moderation and incremental policy change. His key cabinet and White House appointments are, for the most part, long on experience with a demonstrated commitment to the Clinton administration's New Democrat strategy of navigating between the parties' ideological extremes. Such pragmatism has been the hallmark of Obama's public life dating back to his days heading the Harvard Law Review, when he shunned the progressives who backed his candidacy in favor of reaching out to conservatives for political backing.

The critical lesson that Obama will learn in the next 24 months is that far from being the "most powerful position in the world", the presidency is in fact a very weak office. Except in those rare instances — FDR's first 100 Days, Bush during the immediate aftermath of 9/11 — when events conspire to temporarily centralize decision-making power in the Oval Office, presidents typically exercise very little unilateral authority. Instead, their effectiveness depends on their ability to persuade members of Congress, the executive branch and the public that what the President wants is what they should want too, but for their own interests.

Within these constitutionally-induced limits, however, there are steps Obama can take to maximize his governing effectiveness. First, he needs to foster a creative tension between his principle White House and cabinet advisers, rather than allow any single individual to become *primus inter pares*. Toward that end, and in contrast to Bill Clinton who actively resisted appointing veterans of the Carter presidency, Obama has leavened his White House and cabinet with ex-Clinton aides. Presumably the hope is that by pitting Clinton holdovers such as chief of staff Rahm Emmanuel and economic adviser Larry Summers against campaign operatives led

by David Axelrod, Obama gains both experience and loyalty and avoids the crucial staff-induced errors that dogged the previous two Democratic administrations in their first days in office.

In foreign policy, Obama will need to deal constructively with the inevitable tensions that will arise between his National Security Adviser James Jones and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. By virtue of proximity and institutional allegiance, this conflict is almost always won by the NSC adviser. Despite this, Obama would be well advised to create the public perception that Clinton is the chief foreign policy spokesperson if for no other reason than to keep her from straying too far too soon from the reservation.

Obama's foreign policy in its broad outlines is not likely to differ much from the Bush administration's: no retreat from the global war on terror, a lengthy (albeit slightly diminished) presence in Iraq and a beefed up security commitment in Afghanistan. To be sure, Obama will certainly try to mend fences with the international community, but he will learn that there are limits to how far one can overcome basic policy conflicts rooted in different perceptions of national interest. Ironically, Obama will benefit

from the economic downturn. Obama's first legislative priority will be working with Congress to pass an economic stimulus package designed to ameliorate the worst impact of the recession as soon as possible. Undoubtedly such legislation will be less economically targeted and more pork-laden than desirable, but that is the price of doing business with a geographically-based representative body in a system of shared powers. The hope will be that the stimulus package does not send the wrong economic signals in the form of a drastically bigger budget deficit and excessive regulations that conspire to lengthen the time for market forces to reverse the economic downturn. With luck, the economic rebound will occur early enough for Obama to take some credit in the run up to the 2012 election.

Obama will find that efforts to change the "tone" of political discourse in Washington are hampered by the reality that the deep partisan divide is largely rooted in differing, strongly-held beliefs of Democrat and Republican lawmakers regarding what government should do. These differences are exacerbated by a 24/7 blogger-driven news media fixated on viewing policy debates through the lens of political strategy and participants' personalities. Obama's words alone cannot bridge this partisan divide. Instead, if he hopes to fulfill his promise to create a more bipartisan tone, he will need to make significant political concessions to Republicans that will undoubtedly infuriate the left-wing of the Democratic Party.

A final thought: The presidency teaches humility. No one is truly prepared for it, and mistakes are inevitably made. Obama will learn that expectations for what he can accomplish far outstrip his capacity to deliver. How quickly he learns from his errors, and how he handles the inevitable frustrations of office will go a long way to determining his place in history. We, as citizens, can help that process. We need to recognize that mistakes will be made and judge Obama accordingly. Moreover, on most controversial issues, many — sometimes a majority of — Americans will not share our perspective. That does not make their views any less legitimate. When Obama takes the oath of office on Jan. 20, he becomes president of all Americans, and not just of those who share our political convictions. We are all in this together.

The Presidency teaches humility. No one is truly prepared for it.

from Congress' and the judiciary's pushback against the Bush administration efforts to broaden the scope of presidential authority in the national security realm; new limits negotiated in the areas of domestic eavesdropping, torture, and the treatment of prisoners means Obama will be spared the need to fight these battles from scratch. This is not to say the road ahead is without significant hurdles; Obama faces hard choices at home regarding closing Guantanamo Bay, restoring confidence in the nation's intelligence services, and generally balancing the need to protect the nation's borders without sacrificing basic civil liberties. He will find — as Bush did — that in the struggle to balance the two, the weight of constitutional responsibilities will push him toward securing national security first.

Domestically, Obama's ability to fulfill key campaign promises on health care, entitlement reform and middle-class tax cuts will be hampered by the need to address the credit crunch-induced eco-

OP-ED: Mark Esposito The Evil Empire of Snowboarding

In 1993, the Green Mountain State rejected the retail monster known as Walmart from building here. It's a shame that 16 years later, we have let something just as bad grow up in our backyard.

Burton Snowboards was once a revolution unto itself: it personified youth angst and created a culture unrivaled in its individuality. In 1977, Jake Burton's garage was the source of the first snowboards. In 2009, his legacy lives on as Burton's market share of the snowboard industry ranges from 40-70 percent. However, this legacy is not one that most snowboarders appreciate. Burton has forgotten its local Burlington roots and transformed into a commercial brûte that might be better known as the "Walmart of Snowboarding."

Years ago, the Burton Custom X with carbon I-beams and Cartel Capstraps was the epitome of snowboard technology — all the best snowboarders had this board. Today the only Burton gear you will find on local pros is five years old; current Burton gear is designed with the sole intention of garnering a larger market share.

The list of Burton's transgressions against the snowboard culture is colossal. The first and greatest came with the use of the 3-D System, a binding system which defied the industry standard and only allowed riders to use Burton bindings with a Burton board. The Burton T6 was another scheme to make money, featuring technology costing over \$1,000 per board. The only drawback was that the aluminum honeycomb core was ruined after hitting one rock or grinding one rail. To sidestep the negative publicity, Burton developed Anon goggles, R.E.D. protective gear, Gravis footwear and Analog clothing. This season, Burton unveiled an attempt to regain customers with its Love series — boards featuring nude playboy bunnies. Their list of crimes even extends to Burton's latest prodigy, Shaun White, who became the only pro snowboarder to sell out.

The company's latest attempt at swin-

dling a few more customers into paying a ridiculous amount of money for an image is the Eco Nico board. Burton has received numerous accolades for putting so much work into creating a eco-friendly board that will fall into a category accounting for about 2 percent of the entire industry. Retailing for just under \$630, the board's green specs are impressive — it has foregone the toxic lacquers used on previous topsheets, used 90 percent recycled steel, 100 percent recycled sidewalls and 50 percent recycled base material.

The technological specs are much more nebulous. The board is not described with standard terms such as *sintered base*, *CNC-milled wood core* or *dual progressive sidecut*. These terms would normally tell a rider exactly how a board will perform. Instead, terms loaded with "green" connotations such as *salv edges*, *re-run WFO base* and *clean screen graphics* are used. This leaves you standing with a \$630 board that reviews have described as nothing special and you may or may not feel good about buying. In order to ride this board, you will also need to buy \$200 bindings that will most likely break in one season. At least Walmart is cheap.

While Burton has been parading its efforts to the world, the forerunners of green snowboards have been entirely overlooked. Companies such as GNU and Arbor have always built green boards that outperform Burton's entire line while still selling for less. Arbor consistently uses bamboo to provide a lighter, more efficient board that uses the natural beauty of bamboo as a topsheet rather than toxic and controversial plastic graphics.

The future of snowboarding is by no means in question. It is a dynamic sport with the ability to overcome outdated biases and adjust to fit today's expectations. It is a shame, however, that the visionary of the free love snowboard culture has been lost to greed.

MARK ESPOSITO '11 IS FROM CAZENOVIA, NY.



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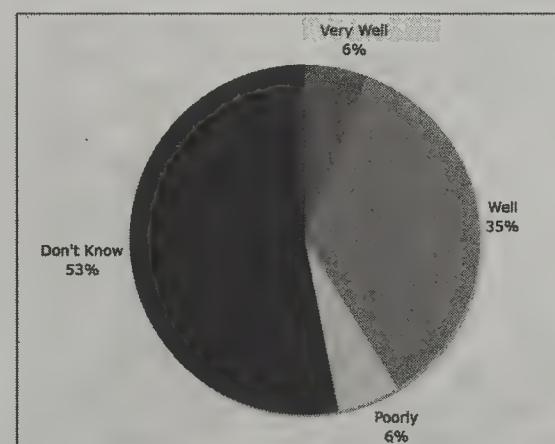
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The Campus Poll

How do you feel the College has handled the recent economic downturn?



In order to make *The Campus* opinions section a more accessible medium, starting this semester *The Campus* will include a poll containing not only numerical data but also personal statements from interested students. Each week we will post the poll question for the next week's issue. Go online to www.middleburycampus.com and select that best reflects your position on the issue. Feel strongly about a particular poll question? On the left side of the web site click on the tab entitled "Send a Letter to the Editor" and, in 150 words or less, explain your rationale for voting as you did. After all, what is an opinion worth unless you share it?

Next week's question:
Did Winter Term play a role in your decision to apply to Middlebury?

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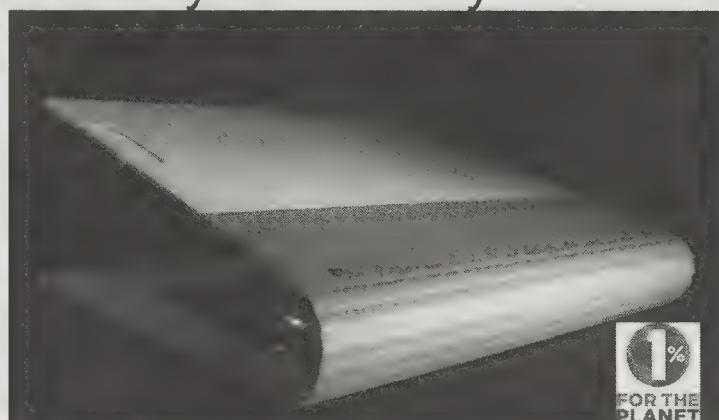
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J-term welcomes a flurry of new opportunities



Grace Duggan

Forging Global Connections: Nepalese Monk imparts wisdom to eager students

By Catherine McCarthy

STAFF WRITER

If you can't bring Middlebury to Nepal, why not bring Nepal to Middlebury? When the college cancelled all Winter Term trips due to the financial crisis, Professor William Waldron decided to do just that. Waldron, an associate professor of religion, originally planned to lead a Winter Term trip to Nepal. In Nepal, students would have had the opportunity to study Buddhism under Tibetan monk Khenpo Sherab Dorjee, who currently teaches at a traditional Buddhist seminary and at a modern institute for Westerners in Katmandu. When the trip was cancelled, however, Waldron and Dorjee were forced to devise a creative alternative. Dorjee decided to travel to the West for the first time in his life — and agreed to join Waldron at Middlebury in co-teaching a course titled "Introduction to Tibetan Buddhism."

"I feel like I've had a very typical Western flirtation with Buddhism," said Sarah Harris '11, who is enrolled in the class. "We throw around terms like *zen*, enlightenment, and 'the path' without actually knowing what they mean."

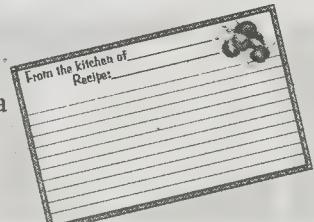
Introduction to Tibetan Buddhism is allowing Harris, along with 13 other students, to explore these ideas from — as Waldron put it — an "insider-outsider perspective." Quite fittingly, class time is split between the traditional teachings of Dorjee and the contextualizing analysis of Waldron.

On a typical day, I observed as students filed into the classroom and quietly took their seats around the seminar table. Waldron and Dorjee sat at the front of the room — Waldron in slacks and a dress shirt, Dorjee in a drapery of orange and purple robes. Dorjee, according to the traditions of monastic education, began class with a Buddhist prayer. As he chanted, some students clasped their hands and closed their eyes while others chose to watch intently.

"For someone within a religious tradition," explained Waldron, "education is the pursuit of spiritual goals." Though students feel no obligation to take part in the Buddhist prayer, "that is part of what [Dorjee] does; it is important to give students a flavor of his religious experience."

Cut this out for Mom

Introducing the premiere of Sasha Swerdluff's new recipe column,
page 15



phy.

Harris spoke to the unique personal view that Dorjee offers. "This class gives me an opportunity to learn about Buddhism from someone whose life is dedicated to its teachings and practices," she said.

As Dorjee finished his lecture, students began to ask a series of questions as they wrestled with the differences between the Buddhist mindset and their own Western one — "Why is it necessary to leave your hometown and family? Don't we derive a lot of meaning from those connections? Is a boy liking a girl always a distraction from study? Does that mean dating is always necessarily detrimental to Buddhist life?"

As Dorjee explained his own view, Waldron prepared to continue the dialogue in his own portion of the class, which included a lecture that placed Dorjee's teaching in its cultural and historical context and analyzed Buddhism from a Western

perspective.

"The joint teaching is highly effective — we are graced with both a historical perspective from Professor Waldron and scriptural interpretations from the Khenpo," said Harris. (*Khenpo* means "teacher" in Tibetan, and is how the students of the class address Dorjee.)

Waldron, too, attempted to explain the class' balance between his own secular approach and his colleague's spiritual teaching. "Middlebury is a secular institution, and students are used to studying *about* religion in an objective, critical way," he said. "Khempo does not teach *about* religion, but teaches the religion itself."

Their collaboration provides a juxtaposition of both approaches, which Waldron explained as essential to the true understanding of a religion. "If we don't understand a particular religion from the inside out, then we are missing something," he said. "The challenge is to remain objective while trying to see from the inside just what makes a religion compelling."

It is clear that this dichotomous approach has provided students with considerable food for thought. "Not only have I been weighing my own beliefs in regards to Buddhism," said Harris, "but I also find myself talking about *dharma* and giving up one's home with classmates over lunch and dinner!"

— Sarah Harris '11

Though the Wright Theatre Seminar Room perhaps does not compare to a monastery in Nepal, this class has provided its students with a remarkable opportunity and challenge, allowing them to immerse themselves in a foreign philosophy and culture while remaining within the context of ordinary life on campus. It is an experience of immersion made possible only by the structure of Winter Term itself. Students are able to, as Harris put it, "become engrossed in the study of one thing." As Dorjee himself described in lecture, a place of study should always be "isolated and free from distraction."

His translator began to laugh as she relayed his next thought: "Khenpo says that Middlebury seems like a good place for that," she said.

This is the first in a two-part series highlighting visiting Winter Term professors. Next week's issue will feature Professor Francisco Del Canto, hailing from Mar de Plata, Argentina.

Shocking Stuff

Culture shock can cut both ways for students returning from exotic locales,
page 16

I Spy

The Campus tries to ameliorate the Middlebury dating scene,
page 15

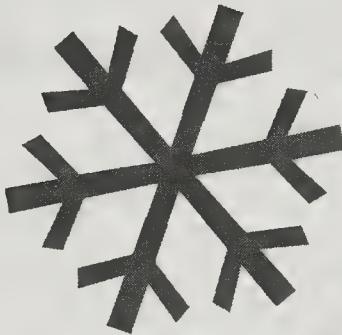
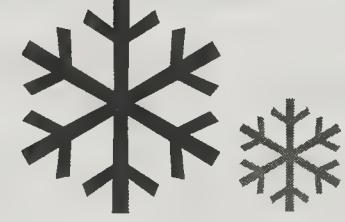
RAD

Thea Francel

Taking the Rape Aggression Defense (RAD) Course is both a fun and practical decision for any Middlebury woman. The RAD class provides its participants with the tools that every woman should have in order to protect herself. It is taught by the College's Public Safety officers, who provide a friendly community atmosphere.

Gaining knowledge and awareness is important in promoting a sense of confidence that is crucial when dealing with assaults. Although this class provides practical and empowering advice, the best part about it is that it gives students a chance to test out their newfound abilities in a real simulation of an attack, applying their skills to protect themselves against an oncoming assailant.

"Being able to see your moves work when fighting off an assault, and learning what does and does not work for you is an important step in being prepared to defend yourself in a real-world dangerous situation," said Sydney Ward '11.



The Art of Collage ... in Italian!

Rachael Jennings

Both Sandra Carletti, associate professor in Italian and Katherine Savino, her teaching assistant, enjoy scrapbooking, drawing and collage but rarely take the time out of their busy schedules to indulge in these hobbies. While talking to their Italian classes last semester, they realized that many students were both interested in these forms of creative expression and somewhat concerned about going the month of January without Italian class.

"I thought, why not 'schedule' time to express our creativity while at the same time practicing Italian?" said Carletti.

Drawing, painting, writing, cutting and pasting while using book pages, photos and other memorabilia, the nine students enrolled in this 12-person class (there is still some room!) will experiment with various media and textures, including color wash and Elmer's glue crackle. While responding to daily themes and prompts, the students enrolled in "The Art of Collage ... in Italian" will chat in Italian, learn art-related vocabulary and listen to Italian music each Tuesday and Thursday in Wright Memorial Theater 117.

Whether experienced in Italian, scrapbooking and collage, or a beginner in both fields, students will feel relaxed and free to experiment in this creative and quirky Winter Term Workshop, as they journal, create and learn in a cultured and artistic environment.

Lindy Hop!

Kaylen Baker

This winter, six Middlebury students are doing something almost magical with their bodies in 4/4 time. Learning how to break down complex movements into simpler parts, participants in the Lindy Hop workshop are beginning to move gracefully with a partner to swing jazz.

This workshop is not limited to experienced dancers. As instructor Sarah McGowen Franco, who started leading the group five years ago, explained, "[My husband] is the most uncoordinated person I know and yet he's an amazing lead. It takes a little extra time and a little extra hard work for uncoordinated people to become good lindy hoppers, but it can happen."

Instead of struggling to detail the movements of the dance, try typing "Lindy Hop" into YouTube. The Champlain Club on Crowley Street in Burlington and Cat's Corner at 3451 Boulevard Saint-Laurent in Montreal are both recommended places to get your Lindy Hop on if you want to explore the genre beyond Middlebury.

As for increasing your seduction skills at The Bunker on Friday nights, Lindy Hop is a guaranteed method. Next winter, consider a dance workshop and learn a form of fundamental human expression.

Lindy Hop is "as-natural, as necessary and nearly as involuntary as breathing," said Franco.

winners



&



losers

J-term Weekday Schedule

Friday mornings just got a little easier.

J-term Weekend Schedule

Where did our fourth weekend go?

All student emails

We must admit, we laughed out loud at the request for milk from one housemate to another.

Shady ethics

Using the student email list to up your commission is about as kosher as a bacon cheeseburger ... with a side of lobster.

Kiss me, Kate W.

You never let go. We've come a long way since the sinking ship.

Leo

Still grasping for your leading lady. Seems you couldn't quite hold on to a Golden Globe.

The D-spot



by Dina Magaril

On a recent creative writing assignment I handed in to my professor, I received the following comment: "This ending is really great, but let's talk about how to tighten the middle." I've always been good at writing conclusions, final paragraphs, even heartfelt goodbye cards. I was comfortable with finality. It's the in-betweens that I always have the most trouble with. Looking at the narrative arc of my coming of age story, my four years at Middlebury have constituted a messy middle to a range of events that often make little sense.

From the day I arrived in my cramped double in Battell, to moving on up to the fifth floor of Starr, and finally off-campus into a real apartment, I pinballed up and down the spectrum of college experience. There were the typical clichés, the drunken mistakes I regretted in the morning, battles with the Freshman 15 and making new friends and feeling like the dumbest person in class. There was falling in love and the predictable heartbreak. There were times when I should have known better and times when I least expected it.

I've met remarkable professors and made amazing friends. I've killed myself on assignments and written ten-page papers the night before they were due. I've stayed up all night in the library on elated caffeine highs, and crashed on a friend's couch from pure exhaustion. I've cried in laps and hugged others when they were breaking. I've stood up for myself but I've also backed down. I've won small battles and lost out on others that I strongly believed in.

And I've learned a thing or two about myself along the way. I am indecisive to a fault, and while I consider myself a realist, deep down I intuit with my emotions rather than with my head. Between compassion and honesty, I will always choose the former, and yet the worst feeling in the world is having someone you care about lie to you.

I've realized that I don't want to apply to graduate school directly after college, and that I don't ever want to settle for a job that makes me dread Mondays, even if it means that I'll be waiting tables while I figure out what I'm really passionate about.

But most of all, I've learned that as much as I have tried to rely on myself, there is no way that I would have made it through four years here without my friends. They have been my family, my confidants, the people I've yelled at when I needed a release, and the people that have understood me the most when I didn't understand myself.

I may not exemplify a model Middlebury student. I certainly never showed signs of Feb pride or exhibited team spirit. But I understand what is meant by the term "Middlebury community." It's taken me four years to get here, to understand that I did and do belong to this strange world in the Vermont mountains, and that as much as I have tried to resist it, I have contributed to its growth and it has contributed to mine.

In less than two weeks, I will say my final goodbye to Middlebury, the bane of my existence and the sometimes-source of my inspiration. I don't know what my final words will be, if they'll be meaningful, or if I'll even feel the need to say them. Middlebury has provided me with plenty of material to shape the rest of my story. I hope to one day make sense of all that's taken place here, but for now, I'll put the editing aside. I've still got a long way to go before my closing statement.

MiddSexGuy



by A.J. Meyer

I hope everyone had a safe holiday and I'm also glad to see so many faces that have been away back on campus. Welcome back. J-Term is nice because it's cold outside and people have a lot of free time. The two seem like an addition problem that equals more sex on campus, which should keep people happy on those grey days or the days when it is really too cold to do anything. So enjoy, we only have four more months until we get some warm weather back in our lives. Make the most of what you've got.

This week I'll be discussing the mysterious and mystical G-spot for both men and women. There's an interesting contrast between the male and female G-spots. For many men, the female G-spot is a mystery and according to most men, in general, the male G-spot should remain a mystery (it's in your butt). In 1950, the German gynecologist Dr. Ernst Grafenberg published a paper that hypothesized the existence of an internal pleasure spot or center inside a woman's vagina that, when stimulated, could result in an orgasm separate and different from clitoral orgasm. Starting in the 1980s and continuing until today, the G-spot has been a hot topic for sexologists, gynecologists and everyone in between. Many feel that it is a proven erogenous zone while others argue that it's just an area with more nerve endings than others. Studies have been performed that both confirm and deny the existence of this mysterious G-spot. A theory that is generally accepted among researchers is that there is something in a general area on the front wall of the vagina that produces a response from a good number of women — pretty non specific.

Everyone's anatomy is slightly different and what may produce an insane, wet orgasm from one woman may not be the same for another. The discovery and research of the famed G-spot is, then, both a gift and a curse. Things are great for those men and women that both have a strong G-spot. For those people who don't, it can be a frustrating struggle to find it. In a recent *TIME Magazine* article, licensed marriage counselor Marion Holtzer compared the G-spot to the Holy Grail.

Still, most researchers don't put it quite so far out of reach. There are plenty of advice columns online to help individuals find the G-spot. Again, things like this are normally not rocket science. www.askmen.com states that "it is located about one to two inches back from the vaginal opening inside the front vaginal wall." Most sources also state that the small (often quarter-sized) spot has a different texture from the rest of the front vaginal wall. If you already know all this information, then good for you and if you don't, it's some food for thought.

The men's G-spot is a topic that many men prefer to avoid while others embrace it. It is also referred to as "milking the prostate," and was made famous to many of us by Sean William Scott in the movie *Road Trip*. Some sources claim that the stimulation of the male G-spot can produce an orgasm in men that is much stronger and will last up to five times longer than a normal orgasm. The prostate is found through the anus and is a small, chestnut-sized bump about two inches inward. As with all sex, comfort is key — and while so many men never will be comfortable with this sex practice, others always will.

There is tons of information about both the male and female G-spots online. You can find pretty much everything online, so check out some sites and spice things up. Life is short. Again, I'd like to encourage people to write me about anything at MiddSexGuy@gmail.com. Tell me about your experiences — or lack thereof — with the G-spot.

By H. Kay Merriman
FEATURES EDITOR

"I can't wait for college! There's hot chicks there!" proclaimed a rosy-cheeked, out-of-breath sixth grader as he burst through the doors of the Pearsons Lounge on Saturday. The boy had just completed the first portion of Cook Commons' annual "Midd-kid for a Day" event, a scavenger hunt designed to lead the mini Midd-kids across campus and to show them the wide variety of activities Middlebury and college in general has to offer.

"Midd-kid for a Day is where kids from surrounding middle schools come to see what college is like," explained Cook Commons Tri-chair Sara Miller '11. "These are kids who might not normally think about college and with this, they get to see what it's all about."

"It's a good way to reach kids at a young age," added Tri-chair Monica Sull '09. "When you think about college, we usually target high school kids, but the earlier you get them interested in college, the harder they'll work in high school."

After a full day of running around the College, eating lunch in the dining hall, watching performances by the Bobolinks and Riddim, listening to an admissions talk and attending a hockey game, the 30 students from Ticonderoga and Crown Point Middle Schools seemed excited about the possibility of attending a school like Middlebury.

Co-coordinator of the event Margo Hennet '11 emphasized the importance of showing the visitors the full college experience.

"There's a big difference between hearing what college is like and seeing it for yourself, and for these kids it is important to explore any stereotypes that they might have heard," she said.

Chrissy Fulton '08, a counselor in the Office of Admissions, addressed those stereotypes, in addition to the logistical aspects of

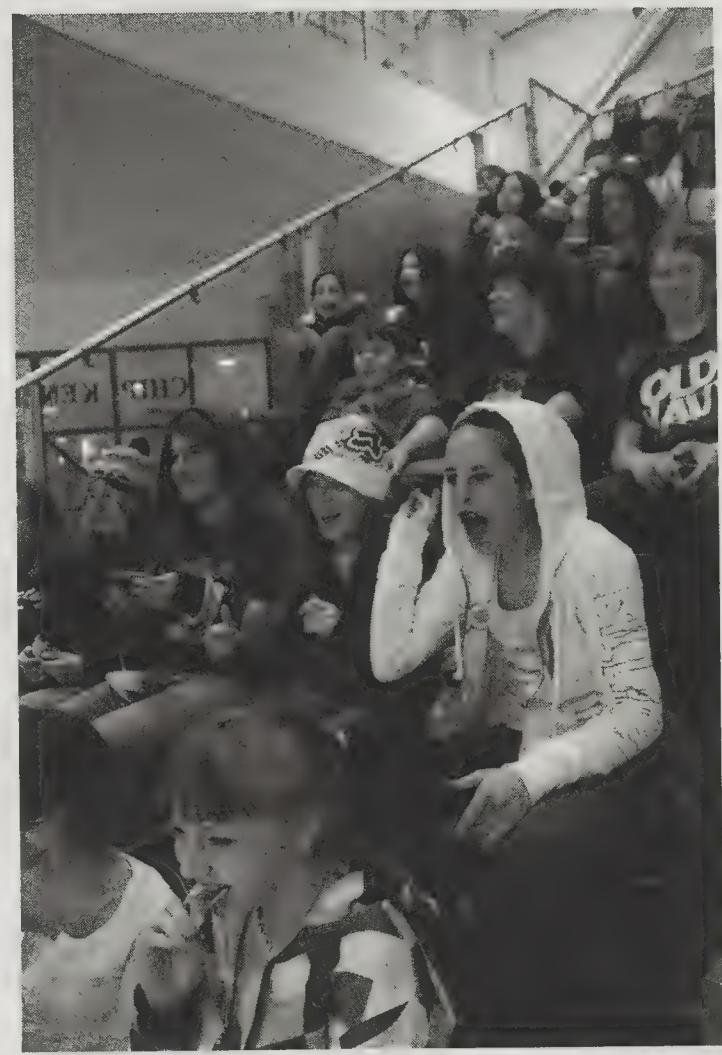
applying to college in her conversation with the kids. Emphasizing the importance of finding a school that is a good fit for the individual, she presented a myriad of options from community college to postgraduate work and explained how scholarships and grants can make school an affordable possibility. Fulton's speech aligned with the goals of College For Every Student organization that identified these middle schoolers as possessing collegiate potential.

Hosting twelve year-olds not only benefited the visiting students, but also reminded the volunteers of the lovable nuances of Middlebury College.

"This must be a very environmental place," observed one student, commenting on the plants growing on the roof of Atwater.

The college volunteers agreed that the dining hall setup was a perk of university life.

"You can eat ice cream for breakfast!" said Natasha Groblewski '09 with a wink, when a



Midd-kids get excited for Saturday's events. Photos: above, Andrew Ngeow, Photo Editor; bottom left, H. Kay Merriman.

nervous boy asked her if college was hard. This answer was met with cheers as the students recalled the endless soft-serve they devoured at lunch.

While teaching the College fight song in order to prepare the visitors for the hockey game, Max Friedman '12 offered a secret about the last line, "It's going to be a hot time in the old town tonight."

"Just mumble it together," he said. "That's what everyone does."

Co-coordinator of the event and Cook Tri-chair Julie Tschirhart found that the day was hectic but rewarding.

"Getting these students acquainted with a college campus has hopefully lessened any fears, or at least erased some of the confusion they may feel about college and the college application process," Tschirhart said. "They were a fun group and I hope they got as much out of the experience as I did!"

Perhaps the lesson to be learned from Midd-kid for a Day is that whether we enjoy the "hot girls," ice cream, environmental concerns or the academic and extracurricular offerings here, we should be thankful to be Midd-kids every day.



From the Kitchen of Sasha Swerdluff

Recipe: Blueberry, Almond, Orange Muffins

Just because you are a college student doesn't mean you can't cook. Once you dive in and learn the basics, preparing delicious meals can become part of your life here at Middlebury. Learning to cook can also enhance your life after college. And it tastes good too!

Growing up I looked forward to the winter weekend mornings because they meant a leisurely and copious breakfast that invariably featured my mom's blueberry, almond, orange muffins. I would wake up to the smell of butter and almonds and hurry downstairs where I would split the muffins in two and watch the steam rising from the blue orbs of last summer's blueberries flanked by rays of orange zest. Then I would eat. Since leaving home, I have baked these muffins many times and I still love them.

I encourage you to seek out local ingredients when cooking. For this recipe try using Butterworks Farm whole

yogurt. Butterworks is a local, organic dairy based in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont. They practice self-sufficient and sustainable farming. They insure that their products are antibiotic-, hormone-, herbicide- and pesticide-free by feeding their cows grains grown exclusively on their own land. Their yogurt is also thick and creamy.

Blueberry, Almond, Orange Muffins

Makes 12 muffins
Total preparation time: 45 minutes

Equipment:
One large 12-piece muffin tin

Ingredients:
1/2 cup unsalted softened butter
3/4 cup granulated sugar

2 large eggs
1 cup plain yogurt
2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon baking soda
2 teaspoons baking powder
1/8 teaspoon salt
2 cups frozen blueberries
2 tablespoons almond extract
zest of one orange
canola oil

Cream butter, sugar, eggs, yogurt and almond extract in a medium sized bowl until smooth with some lumps. In a separate bowl, combine flour, baking soda, baking powder and salt. Add dry ingredients to wet ingredients and mix until sticky. Fold in blueberries and orange zest.

Grease muffin tin with canola oil and fill with a generous spoonful of batter.

Bake at 375 degrees for 25-30 minutes or until golden brown. Serve hot!

I SPY

To the fit skier in the neon jacket, I see you regularly on the slopes, but I can never keep up. Let's warm up together in the lodge sometime.

— Karen

You stopped smoking your cigarette to hold the door open for me at Ross Monday morning. Care to see my smile every morning?

— ANON

*Feeling a lack of love at Middlebury?
Already compiling your Senior Crush List?
Can't find your "Proctor crush" in F.I.C.?*

Well, here's your opportunity to take a chance and potentially make that love connection. Submit your "I Spy" in 50 words or fewer to Midd.I.Spy@gmail.com and The Campus will publish the spottings with the most potential in hopes of remedying the lack of a dating scene so frequently lamented by frustrated Middlebury students. Whether you are corny or sincere, with any luck, you'll be putting MiddSexGuy's tips to use in no time.

You sat in front of me in Nature's Meanings, and once complimented me on my Tevas, but I was too shy to continue the conversation. Meet me on the TAM at two tomorrow if you want to keep talking.

— "Thoreau"

To the gorgeous blonde who took my breath away at The Bunker last week. Dance with me there next Friday? I can't hold my breath any longer!

— BumpnGrind

I spent all last night Facebook stalking you and when I got to picture number 78 and saw your impressive kegstand form, I knew we were meant to be. Same time, same Atwater Suite, next weekend.

— Your Beirut Partner

close to home:

Shabana Basij Rasikh

By Sarah Harris
STAFF WRITER

Shabana Basij Rasikh's passion is relentless. From her tiny person emanates an almost tangible energy, a distinct and rumbling hunger for change. Her laughter is contagious, her eyes always bright.

I often think about my friend who spent six years dressed as a boy in order to attend school. Shabana's formative Saturdays were spent doing the family's shopping. As a young girl disguised in jeans and a t-shirt, she saw women beaten at the hands of the Taliban for walking alone, for displaying their faces. She grew accustomed to the sound of gunfire. She still jumps at the screech of trucks passing. I marvel that here we both are, eating in Ross, slipping on the ice — that our lives are currently filled with the same melodramas of our neighbors.

During exam week, I give Shabana a ride to Boston, the first in a series of stops culminating in her arrival home, to Kabul, Afghanistan. It is a strange drive. We leave at 11 p.m., immediately following her exam, hoping to catch a few hours' sleep before her 7 a.m. flight the following day. As we zoom across a darkened New England, strains of Amir Jan Sabori and Gwen Stefani (an unlikely pairing and testament) echo across our quiet conversation.

"Are you scared?" I ask. She sighs.

"My professor advised me to go and listen, to observe. I need to see how things are changing. I'm going to try and keep my head down this trip."

Something in her voice stuns me — a weariness. I remember what she said when I interviewed her a few weeks prior: "For me, to have that passion about Afghanistan, to have that belief that Afghanistan too can be a peaceful country — it just increases every day. I'm falling more and more in love with Afghani-

stan."

This girl, she gives and gives and gives. Sometimes, I worry about her.

Before the quiet turns too heavy she chuckles, reminding me of the speeding ticket accrued at the outset of our journey a few hours prior. I am grateful for her laughter in the face of this venture. Her infectious giggle — it is something akin to hope.

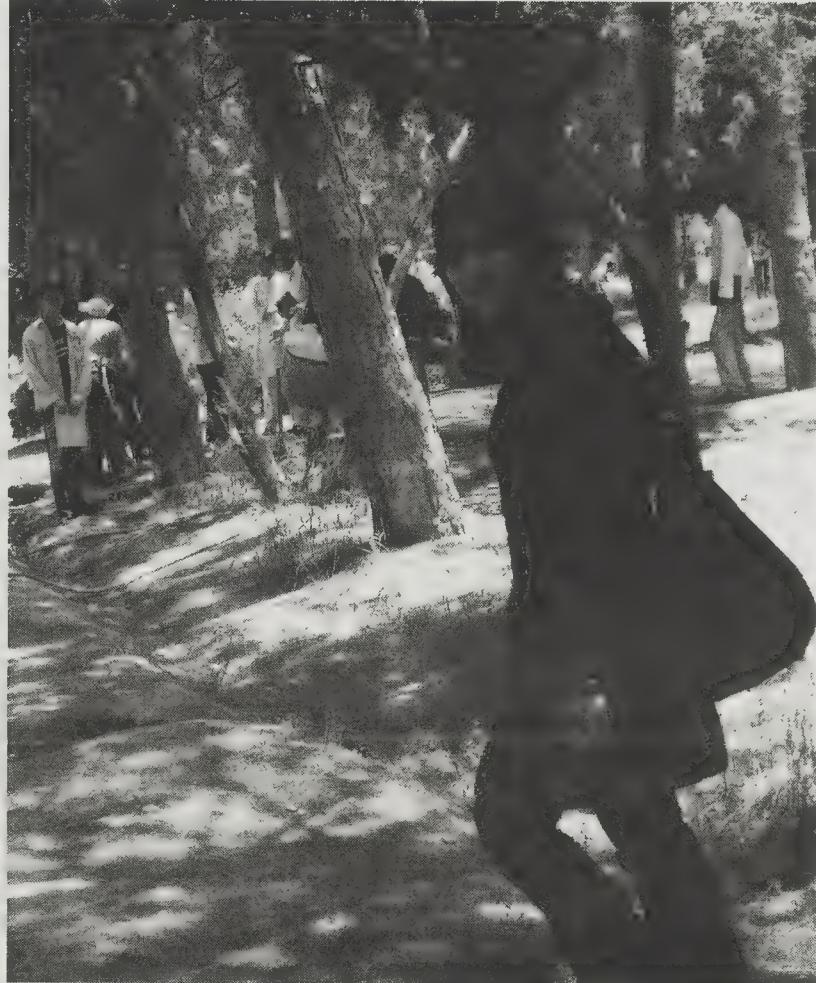
Amid the pink light of waking traffic we hug goodbye. It is odd to be almost crying with your friend in a fluttering sea of taxis, knowing that tomorrow she will be home in a place that she both loves and struggles against, a place portrayed to me only as harsh and inhospitable.

I cannot know that a week later, while cross-country skiing with my family, my friend is talking her way out of bribes at the Pakistani border, recklessly seeking visas so that her sisters might study in the United States. I cannot know that she has quietly tucked a bill into your glove compartment to pay the ticket, that even though she spends the break running from embassy to embassy she thinks to bring me back a bedspread. I cannot know that as the New Year dawns she will struggle to make sense of her journey and I will look on, unsure of what to say.

And I hope. I hope (and perhaps I know) that Shabana will do that which she does best — laugh.

Together we lift her suitcase from the trunk and she inquires as to the covering that stretches over the back hatch. "Oh, you know, to cover up whatever's in the trunk, just in case I want to transport dead bodies or something." Her eyes twinkle.

"With friends from Afghanistan, you should expect that." You give her an enormous hug as a bone sun rises and planes clatter into a bright and chilly sky.



Courtesy

Sarah Harris '11 was recently named a Middlebury Narrative Journalism Fellow, participating in the project "How'd you get here?" Over the course of 2008-2009 Harris and fellows Mallory Falk '09, Lois Parshley '11, and Aylie Baker '09 will be interviewing students about their personal journeys — be it literal or figurative — to Middlebury College. The stories they collect will be produced as audio narratives for radio and Web broadcast. A collection of stories will appear in public exhibition in May, but excerpts from selected interviews will also be published bi-weekly as part of the new "Close to Home" series in the Campus. Stay tuned, and if you have a story to share, contact a fellow.

Enterprising students create MiddBay.com

Web site offers new, private platform for exchanging products and services

By Liya Gao
STAFF WRITER

Inspired by Web sites such as Craigslist.org and eBay.com, two Middlebury students have devised a new way to serve the Middlebury College community. Overnight, www.middbay.com, a nonprofit student initiative to provide the Middlebury community (students, faculty and staff) with a private platform to exchange services and goods has been born.

Hiba Fakhouri '09, Student Government Association (SGA) Chief of Staff and Issaq Sadaqah '11, head of public relations for the SGA, first came up with the idea to start a similar Web site earlier this year. The idea, combined with backing from the SGA Finance Committee to purchase the domain and space and support from the SGA and Community Council, soon made MiddBay.com a reality.

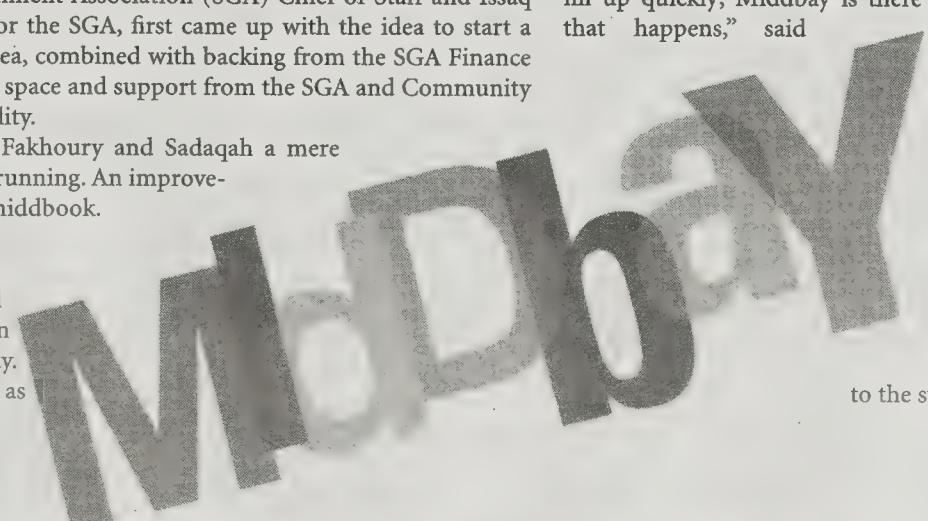
The site, which impressively took Fakhouri and Sadaqah a mere three weeks to complete, is now up and running. An improvement from Sadaqah's previous www.middbook.com, which only listed textbooks, MiddBay.com incorporates much more. MiddBay.com has only been functional for about a week and contains four main components. Students can go to MiddBay.com to list and buy textbooks as well as compare textbook prices via ISBN.

"The goal of this function is to help students save money because I don't think it is right for the bookstore to make money off of textbooks when they are mandatory for every student," said Sadaqah. Students can also list and buy furniture and bikes on the site, a function that was added to make it more convenient for students living off-campus. The final component of the Web site is a Middlebury ride-sharing program that students can turn to for alternative transportation.

"The SGA does provide buses to New York and Boston during the holidays, but they fill up quickly; Middbay is there to help students get to where they need to go when that happens," said Sadaqah.

While these are the only functions of the site for now, the idea is still developing and both Fakhouri and Sadaqah hope to add more to it in the future. Currently, there is room on the site for clubs and organizations on campus to freely advertise their events.

"We are also hoping to expand the project to include faculty and staff and other areas after assessing the feedback of the student body. However, as of now I believe that we have tried to incorporate all the features that would be helpful to the student body," said Fakhouri.



Culture shock strikes back for returning students

By Eric Bartolotti
STAFF WRITER

Everyone knows about culture shock. In a nutshell: 1. You travel somewhere. 2. You stay there awhile. 3. You start to feel weird.

This is a very watered down version — a version that may belittle the trials of any currently abroad students reading *The Campus* online in internet cafes* — but I think it will suffice.

After all, everyone knows about culture shock. There are advisory pamphlets. There are culture classes. There is a Wikipedia article (in nineteen different languages, no less). While culture shock still looms over any prospective study abroad student, this is precisely why it is a beatable enemy: we expect it. We have resources to fight it. To flip a cliche on its side, "what you *do* know can't hurt you."

So, writing about "return" culture shock, I feel the need to clarify. Return culture shock is classic culture shock's dark cousin, the kind that strikes after re-entering the borders of the homeland. I had never thought about the idea. As I myself am nearing my own year-long study in Egypt, it is certainly something that concerns me. To better understand the nature of the beast, I visited the Center for Health and Wellness, whose staff has experience counseling troubled returning juniors and seniors.

In our discussion, Counselor Virginia Logan and I uncovered a few big ideas. The first was that studying abroad is a leap forward in maturity. Students may live in their own apartments, cook their own meals and interact with strang-

ers and authorities without backup. After all that, dorms and dining halls seem almost childish. The second was the common complaint that life at Middlebury had gone on while they were away. People had morphed. Protocols had melded. Proctor had been sacked.

It is obvious to us here that things will keep happening back in Vermont — albeit at a charming "Vermontly" pace — but why could not that be obvious on the other side of the ocean? The answer is that overseas students will often glorify their memories of homeland as a coping mechanism while abroad. They expect their glorified version to be there when they return, but often, it is not. When searching for reasons for the change, one's own personal maturity and development often deserve the blame just as much as the homeland itself.

Then I asked the obvious question: about how many students come in for counseling on return culture shock? The answer — not many, even during peak times like Winter Term and the following September. The Center has excellent resources and staff, but if students are not coming to them, they cannot be of much help. By contrast, counseling resources overseas are utilized by students much more frequently. You are even allowed to break the language pledge for support, meaning regular culture shock counseling is taken pretty seriously.

Still, just because the Center has few reports of this return culture shock phenomenon, it does not mean that its effects are insignificant.

"For reasons I don't quite understand, my English is a little clumsy," admitted Andrew McDonald '10, who spent

time abroad in Russia. "Earlier today I called a bottle of ketchup a bottle of toothpaste, and later mixed up the words 'revolution' and 'evolution.' And now, whenever I walk into a restaurant, the first thing I do is look around for a place to hang my coat — as is custom in Russia."

Kristen Faiferlick '10 recalled different difficulties with the language change.

"I will miss the really bad English. In China, clothing with English is really popular, but unfortunately, the companies that design the shirts don't use the best translators," Faiferlick said. "Some examples of shirts that I saw were 'Short and Stubby,' 'Little miss jail bait,' 'I love your muscle, your power. Very very much. Catch me!' and 'Just like a clear glass purity hatchet. Why do you think so far?'

According to an article on the College's Study Abroad Website, return culture shock is significantly more harmful than its classic counterpart. This article, titled "Coming Home: Life After Study Abroad," offers a detailed explanation of the phenomenon and how to cope with it. Unfortunately, this useful resource is buried in a corner of the site under the obscure "Returning Students" label.

"I was really really reluctant to leave, and it was hard to wrap my head around the fact that abroad was over, and I had to move on the next semester," Faiferlick said.

Students need to expect return culture shock so that they don't expect something else: namely, their homeland as a shelter and refuge from their foreign location.

*If you are studying abroad and are still loyal enough to keep up with *The Campus*' happenings, then you win ten points for Gryffindor.

Local retirees share the spice of senior living

By Margaret Moslander
STAFF WRITER

Volunteering at the Middlebury teen center. Teaching a workshop on the history of baseball. Visiting and volunteering in third world countries. While this may sound like a list of popular Winter Term activities, it actually illustrates some of what Middlebury's senior community has been up to.

On Jan. 9, the Middlebury College Office for Staff Development, with Middlebury Elderly Services, hosted a lunchtime discussion on preparing for retirement. Sheila Andrus, a staff member in the Office for Staff Development, and Pat Carpenter, a social worker from Middlebury Elderly Services, invited five members of the Middlebury community who are at various stages in their retirement to share their experiences and wisdom with those who are preparing to retire. While one may expect that a discussion on retirement may revolve around finances, especially in today's economic climate, Pat Carpenter made it clear that this discussion would focus on the "social and psychological" aspects of retirement.

Carpenter got the discussion started with questions for each member of the panel, beginning with their motivations for retirement. Marge, the most recently retired member of the

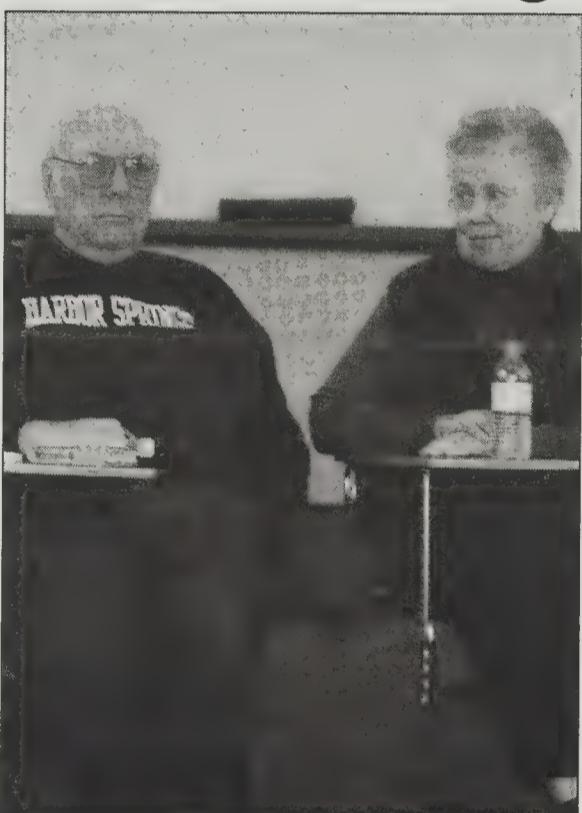
panel, said that she retired because "the school board offered a bailout." The honesty of her response would set the tone for the rest of the discussion, with the panel being frank about the difficulties and rewards of retired life. There was a strong emphasis placed on how the patterns of life change with retirement. Because there is no strict schedule to follow after stopping work, participants suggested that it is important to get involved in other activities. Rudy, a former professor of sociology at the College, said that after retiring at 62 he "did nothing for two years." Other participants on the panel agreed with Rudy that it takes time to "recover" from the working world, but after that recovery takes place, it is important to rejoin the world in some other capacity.

The other capacities in which members of the panel rejoined the world are many and varied. One of the most interesting stories was told by Jan, a long retired woman who had worked for Geiger of Austria. Upon retiring, she joined the Peace Corps and taught "small business development" in South Africa for two years. She was in South Africa when Nelson Mandela was elected president, and she talked about the excitement that swept the country at that time. After leaving South Africa she worked at an orphanage in Uganda. Her story was inspiring; she created a new, exciting life for herself

after having worked the same job for most her life.

Rudy, for his part, rejoined the community after retirement using the teaching skills he honed at Middlebury College. He now teaches classes at the Elderly Services College. His specialty is the history of baseball, and he is an avid baseball memorabilia collector. Mal and Pat, the only couple on the panel, are active participants in many Elderly Services activities and also volunteer at the Middlebury Teen Center.

The members of the lunchtime discussion were inspired by the stories of these retirees — in fact, it is accurate to say that many of their views on what retirement can and should be were changed by the members of the panel. Pat Carpenter, in her closing remarks, reminded the participants that "some people retire to live, and others retire to die." The members of the panel certainly retired to live, and continue to inspire others in the Middlebury community in many different ways.



Andrew Ngeow, Photo Editor
Middlebury community retirees offer their inspiring experiences and advice to students in recent panel.

LOOKING BACK

The Middlebury Campus

Vol. 100, No. 42, Number 4211

January 11 & 18, 1978

Since 1905

1977. The time of punk rock, "Happy Days," "M*A*S*H," "Charlie's Angels," and Jimmy Carter. This year, Debbie Fields was opening her first store, which she called "Mrs. Fields Chocolate Chippery." The average household income was \$13,572. "Dancing Queen" premiered on the sound waves.

That was where America was standing when January 1978 came and opened a new chapter of history, which spiraled all the way to 2009: the era of iPhones, Macs, Smart-boards, fast food, fast communication and fast-paced life-styles.

In January 1978, Middlebury students were getting excited with the snow and the general laziness of Winter. Seniors were less interested about the future and juniors were more worried about it similarly to students today. They have not changed too drastically ... in

"My plans for next year are set. I expect to teach English in Germany, at a Berlitz school or in the army. However, I'm engaged to an Iranian. He'll be in Germany next year but if he weren't, I wouldn't have the faintest idea of where I would be."

— Sarah Eddy in "Seniors Look Ahead with Mixed Emotions"

"It seems most of the opportunities I want are in the city and I'm scared of the city."

— Debbie Koffman in "Seniors Look Ahead with Mixed Emotions"

"I'm not emotionally stable in these types of things. I feel a mixture of nervous to apathetic. It matters how

sober I am."

— Carlo Lucchesi in "Seniors Look Ahead with Mixed Emotions"

"Every Sunday, Bloody Marys are only 50 cents."

— "Get Up's" in Time for Brunch by Diane Goldner

"A professor from the history department said that although his students sometimes 'jibe' at him for smoking in class, he would be hard-pressed to stop. 'I'd have to cut my wrists,' he said jokingly. The professor said he is vaguely aware of the Handbook regulations."

— "Smoking in Class" by Carola Wilder

"Leaving Middlebury might be compared to leaving Momma's womb."

— Gregory Goth in "Seniors Look Ahead with Mixed Emotions"

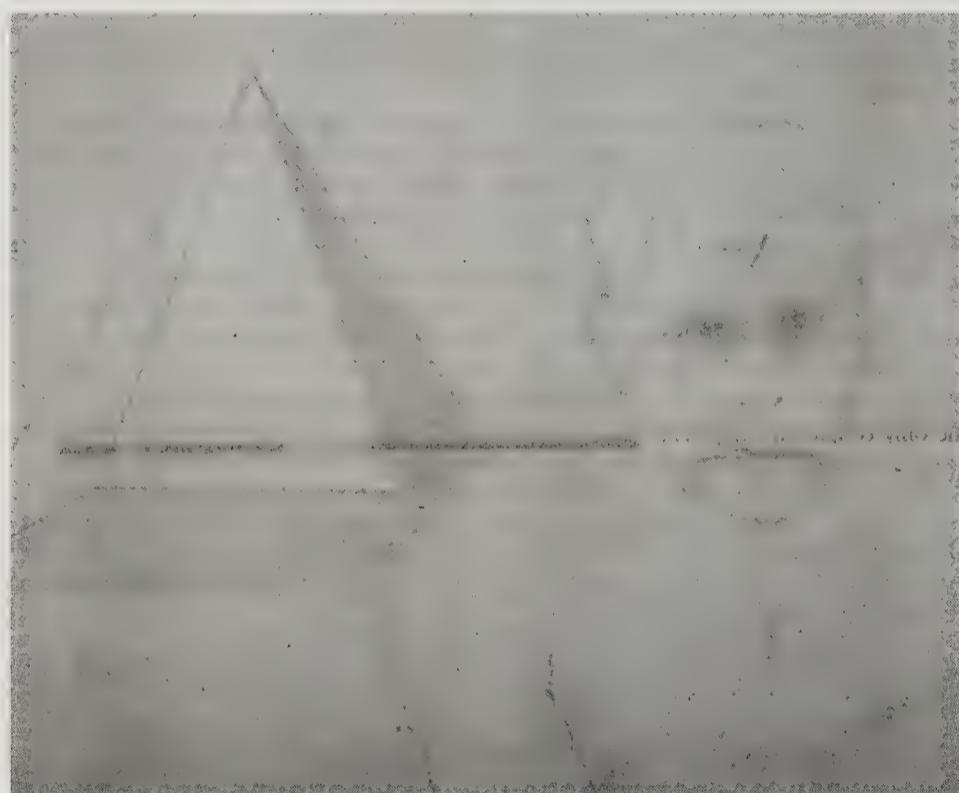
"This impressive conservation effort [achieved by the Middlebury College Energy Council] has gone relatively unnoticed by the college community because members of the college have not been asked to sacrifice their comfort for conservation."

— "Energy Council Promotes Conservation, Sacrifice" by David Magida

— Archived by Rachael Jennings



LARGE FORMAT, DEEP IMPACT



ARTICLE BY MARIO ARIZA

The Large-Format Drawing exhibition, located in the Johnson Memorial Building's gallery, showcases 11 works from last semester's Studio Art I course. The featured pieces are generally charcoal- and pastel-based portraits executed on several large, stapled rectangles of coarse paper. The 11 works of art, selected from over 80 entries, are not necessarily the work of studio art majors and reveal, at times, unorthodox approaches to a medium that is neither new nor edgy.

The simplest, and one of the most direct pieces of the exhibition, is by Katelyn Romanov '11. A study in contrasts, the work's only light source is weak and in the top left hand corner. It shines lightly on the back of the up-in-the-air legs of a nude, upside down female figure lying on a bed. The torso of the figure is in a deep shadow that gradually fades to pitch black, obscuring any view of anything above the figure's off-kil-

ter breasts. Done completely in charcoal, the piece is simple and elegant in the way it relies only on the upside down figure for balance and only on the contrast between light and shadow for movement.

Immediately next to it is a work by Lingji Hon '11. A riot of color and chaos of forms, this smaller charcoal and pastel work is as notable for its visual imbalance as for its rich reds, greens, yellows and blacks. Female torsos with yellow shadowed breasts emerge from a strange foliage. In the center left stands a chiseled male figure. Next to him two torsos are entwined and below that, a pair of lips are pursed in ecstasy. Motion in this piece is abstracted, and the intense sexual experience so artfully suggested and so colorfully rendered is held in stasis by the pieces' inherent imbalance. The large areas of deep red in the upper-right quadrants only enhance the sensations of pause and

abeyance.

Standing at the center of the exhibition is a piece by Moriel Rothman '11, an interestingly framed portrait of a muscled male, with a hat on his loins and pink hearts in his sunglasses. The piece is cheeky, and the color lacking in the black and grey male figure is provided by colorful phrases like "my goal is to live in full" and "lightning in my veins" scrawled willy-nilly across the white spaces. This is the only composition in the selection that relies on words as visual components, and they are integral to the composition's attempt at conveying the strange mix of ego and vulnerability involved in what appears to be a nude self-portrait.

The strongest, and most stunning piece exhibited is by Lisa Shea '10. Done in pastel, charcoal and ink, this composition uses the white space of the paper and the suggestive

power of rough, bold lines extending into nothing to forcefully conjure a female nude. The face of the nude receives the most detail, with black ink being used to coherently order the piercing gaze of the posing figure. The shock of orange hair is incoherent, flaming out from the head and falling on the hard, inked lines of the shoulders. The torso and buttocks are an expert suggestion, shaded here and there in orange, and the abdomen — mostly white space — is crowned by the belly button. The limbs dissolve into outline and finally, down to a line, (the entire left leg suggested by only that one line running down from the buttocks to the edge of the paper).

The pieces on exhibit all manage to spark something in the observer, and are well worth the search through Johnson's warren-like interior that is necessary to find them.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY GRACE DUGGAN

editors' picks

16 **Firefly**
MCFA
Sunset until 10 p.m.

Artist-engineer Jito Coleman's creative "firefly" contraptions, which enables viewers to "see" the wind with a turbine powered LED light, will be set up in the Mahaney Center for the Arts lobby.

16 **Bernarda Fink**
CFA Concert Hall
8 p.m.

This mezzo-soprano is one of the celebrated names in the classical music world, and she will bring a program of Schubert and Dvorak songs to the CFA concert hall.

John Brown's Body
Higher Ground,
Burlington
8:30 p.m.

JBB comes out clean after the untimely death of their bassist and the throat surgery of their vocalist. Higher Ground is just a hop, skip, and a jump up Route 7.

17 **I'm Not There**
Dana Auditorium
3 and 8 p.m.

This is the movie in which Cate Blanchett plays a man — Bob Dylan to be exact. Directed by Todd Haynes, this film is comprised of a series of miniatures featuring different actors playing the iconic pop star.



for the record

by Melissa Marshall

Okay, so it's J-term, and you know what that means. Skiing? No, maybe when I master walking. Intoxication? If you're buying, sweetheart. The correct answer is workshops! As your friendly, almost retired *Campus* columnist, I would like to offer my dining hall readers a crash course into what may not be on your headphones this January, but should be. And while I cannot promise that my workshop will end in a colorfully constructed hat like many currently offered evening activities, it is free. Side effects include awkward dancing and compulsive listening. May result in your new favorite band. Read at your own risk.

Let's face it: J-term is a time to party. And personally, I might just commit *seppuku* if I hear "Call on Me" one more time on the dance floor. Instead, try mainstays Of Montreal's new album, "Skeletal Lighting." It's addictive and surprisingly fresh for a band that has the tendency to fall flat. And most importantly, it's wicked fun. "Id Engager," "An Eluardian Instance" and "Gallery Piece" complete the puzzle of a perfect night out. Plus, they mention ninjas; people on this campus are into that, right? If you're feeling more adventurous, you could venture into Metro Area's new release "Fabric 43." This band is strange even for Brooklyn, mixing '70s disco and old-school house and R & B into synthetic sounds that are actually catchy. Having a blowout and need reinforcements? Cut Copy's "In Ghost Colours" is a staple that should never be ignored.

Need some quiet time after the burden of being social? Don't let the hyperborean temperatures deter you from exploring the snow-globe wonderland that is Middlebury. Marrying a temperate guitar with a confidential violin, the Horse Feather's second release, "House with No Home," presents itself as the ideal accompaniment to a Vermont winter car ride. Quiet yet uplifting, "Curs in the Weeds," "Heathen's Kiss" and "Rude's Rule" are forerunners of one of Kill Rock Stars' most intriguing new acts. If you're looking for more contemporary sound to your folk, Sonya Kitchell's "This Storm" is country-chic. Tracks such as the single "Here to There" and "Borderline" are bit too banjo for my taste, but "For Every Drop" sounds like a power ballad to open an episode of "Grey's Anatomy." Hey, bad shows can have good soundtracks. Remember "The O.C.?"

Want to enjoy the outdoors in a more active way? Calhoun's new endeavor, "Falter Waiver Cultivate," is guaranteed to put you in a good mood and pump you up for a day of skiing, snowshoeing or even Wordsworth explication. The whole album released by Artist Garage is a gem, but "Breathe," "Freedom in the End of Everything" and "Apocalypse (A Love Story)" standout as mix CD heartthrobs. Need an extra push? "Morning Tide" by the Little Ones is a shoulder-shimmy, brave little song that sounds like Oasis before the hangover: energetic and clever.

I almost forgot one of the most pleasing aspects of J-term: copious amounts of sleep. And while I have never been a subscriber to the continuing trend of trance-pop, it does serve a purpose as a sleepaid. As an introduction to a rather obtuse genre, The Dears' most recent release "Missiles" proves accessible and enjoyable in and out of consciousness. "Disclaimer," "Threats" and "Savior" are good jumping-off points. Ready for the behind-the-counter stuff? In true Duchamp style, High Place's first full-length of the same name transforms household appliances and found sounds into synthetic melodies. And while it's hard to grab out tracks as singles since the entire album is a blurred soundscape, "From Stardust to Sentience" and "Papaya Year" have arrested the arm of my alarm clock.



Spotlight on...Philippe Bronchtein '10

Last October, Philippe Bronchtein '10 released "Scarecrow," an EP produced under the moniker Hip Hatchet. Bronchtein discussed with *The Campus* what "Scarecrow" sounds like and why.

The Middlebury Campus: "Hip Hatchet" — does that mean a hatchet worn on the hip, or a very stylish hatchet?

Philippe Bronchtein: (Laughs) Hatchet worn on the hip. That [name] was a danger. But I think alliteration justifies pretty much anything.

TC: Was this your first attempt at writing music?

PB: In high school, I was really into emo, and I was writing lots of songs that were pretty bad. Like, really bad. After a while I realized, "I'm writing terrible music, and I should stop." But I've started listening to music and thinking about music in a different way. I was living in Montreal this summer. For the first month, I didn't know anyone and didn't go out at all. So I just stayed in my apartment and wrote.

TC: You tried the whole "artistic solitude" thing?

PB: It wasn't like, "I'm so alone and I must create!" I just didn't have much else to do. I didn't write lyrics in 15 minutes like when I was in eighth grade. It was much more of an elongated process.

TC: How and by whom was the album produced?

PB: This is really fun for me. I live four houses down from Tim Shroud, the kid who produced this album. We've been best friends since I was three years old. Now he's a Music Engineering major at USC. The album sounds *good*, and that's all to his credit. We recorded [Scarecrow] in August, after I got back from Montreal. Then, he took all the files back California and mixed them. I felt really comfortable experimenting musically because I've known him my whole life. He didn't ask for any money, although I am going to pay him, once I get some profit.

TC: You mentioned an arc. Did you imagine Scarecrow as more than a collection of songs?

PB: It's definitely not a concept album, but it was conceived with an idea of continuity.

The first and fourth tracks are parallel. There's a build in be-

tween, then a return [to the first song's style], then a conclusion. It has a sort of a-b-a-c structure.

I wrote more songs than I recorded — maybe seven or eight. I thought about which would make sense and which would be realistic to record in the time frame available.

TC: In what genre, if any, would you place "Scarecrow"?

PB: Just sort of indie-acoustic-folk-rock, whatever you want to call it. It's not groundbreaking in terms of genre; that wasn't my intention. I'm just trying to write songs.

TC: If you could have made any album, which one would it have been?

PB: That's a tossup, and it's between two very different albums: "I See a Darkness" by Bonnie Prince Billy [real name: Will Oldham] and "Music Has the Right to Children" by Boards of Canada.

TC: Would you consider them your biggest influences?

PB: Oldham & Springsteen are the two biggest influences on me lyrically. I love Oldham's dark elements, and I love the way Springsteen takes the simplest things and makes them into the most important moments of your life — brilliant.

When I was younger and listening to bad music, it was "Music Has the Right to Children" that first got me listening to interesting stuff. I actually just wrote a 15-page paper on why that album changed the way I listened to music.

TC: Are you working on any other projects?

PB: Tons. I've been doing a lot of DJing. I'm also working on a fist-pumping, electronic solo album. I think I'm going to call it Bearplane. John Gloucester '09 made up that name — I have to give due credit. I have an Old Stone Mill space, where I play with Eamon Fogerty, Charlie Freundlich and Josh Wessler. We've got two songs written so far. I'm playing synth, electronics and guitar in that. We're playing in the battle of the bands this weekend. I also have a band back in New Jersey called The Early... And Hip Hatchet is trying to make a full-length by next year.

TC: Wow.

PB: Yeah. All I do is music.

— John Patrick Allen, Staff Writer



Nick Sohl

THEATRE UNDER PRESSURE

Mission: To write, direct, memorize and perform six plays — in a window of 24 hours. This Sunday, Jan. 11, the third annual 24-Hour Play Festival featured six original works from the minds of Eric Bartolotti '11, Elizabeth Goffe '10, Samantha Collier '09, Andrew Ward '09, Neil Baron '10 and Gillian Durkee '11. The guidance of six directors (Dawn Loveland '09, Reilly Steel '11, Lilli Stein '11, Andrew Ward '09, Veracity Butcher '09 and Oscar Loyo '10) and the power of 24 student actors brought a new meaning to working under pressure as they turned what could have easily been a catastrophe into a cohesive performance. At 8 p.m. on Saturday, the writers began composition with directing beginning at 8 a.m. the following morning. The curtain rose at 8 p.m. Sunday night with another performance at 10 p.m. Rarely do students have the opportunity to not only witness, but also participate in all aspects of the theatrical process, making the 24-Hour Play Festival a unique Winter Term tradition.

Starrett Berry

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Piano quartet more than just “and co.”

By Andrew Throdahl

ARTS EDITOR

Posters advertising the first Performing Arts Series concert of the new year read “Sophie Shao and Friends,” placing the photogenic young cellist as the predetermined star of the evening. This was misleading, since Shao’s “friends” matched her in both role and ability. Here I will restrain from making a “show-off” pun. The advertisement may point to the impromptu formation of this piano quartet.

Saturday evening was the ensemble’s first public performance together after only two rehearsals, and one that would have been just as impressive had they been together for a decade.

The program was slightly disproportionate, with two of Brahms’ monolithic Piano Quartets, in C minor (op. 60) and G minor (op. 25), alongside Mozart’s unusually expansive Piano Quartet in E-flat major (K. 493). The evening might have been more elegant without Mozart, although the latter was perhaps the most successfully executed work on the program.

Pei-Yao Wang’s hands and technique were at home in Mozart. The detailed filigree of the first and third movements was faultless. The strings played these outer movements with a clean wristiness that matched Wang’s overt technical accomplishment.

The ensemble as a whole had a cohesive understanding of the piece, fitting in “agogics” — or small delays that outline some structural bend in the score — in logical places. The Larghetto movement never sounded sentimental, or, on the other extreme, stilted.

For audience members unfamiliar with classical music, nothing could have prepared them for the nuclear fallout at the end of the first movement of Brahms’ C Minor Quartet (1873). C minor is a key usually wound up in strife. Bach’s organ Passacaglia, Beethoven’s Fifth Symphony and Pathétique Sonata seem to prefigure the drama of this movement, especially one coming from a composer who revered his German antecedents.

The ensemble’s realization of the first movement must have been cathartic, following Mozart, and perhaps for that reason, it seemed to overshadow the other three movements.

One of the reasons the performance of the C Minor Quartet was effective was that

the strings sounded like three string soloists rather than a string trio. Violinist Tai Murray’s distinctive, smoky tone was effective amid the traffic of Brahms’ highly contrapuntal developments. Violist Eric Nowlin brought genuine ardor to Brahms’ carefully crafted alto lines, which are sometimes difficult to hear on recordings. And the star, Shao, played her well-phrased solos with that burnished tone cited on the poster.

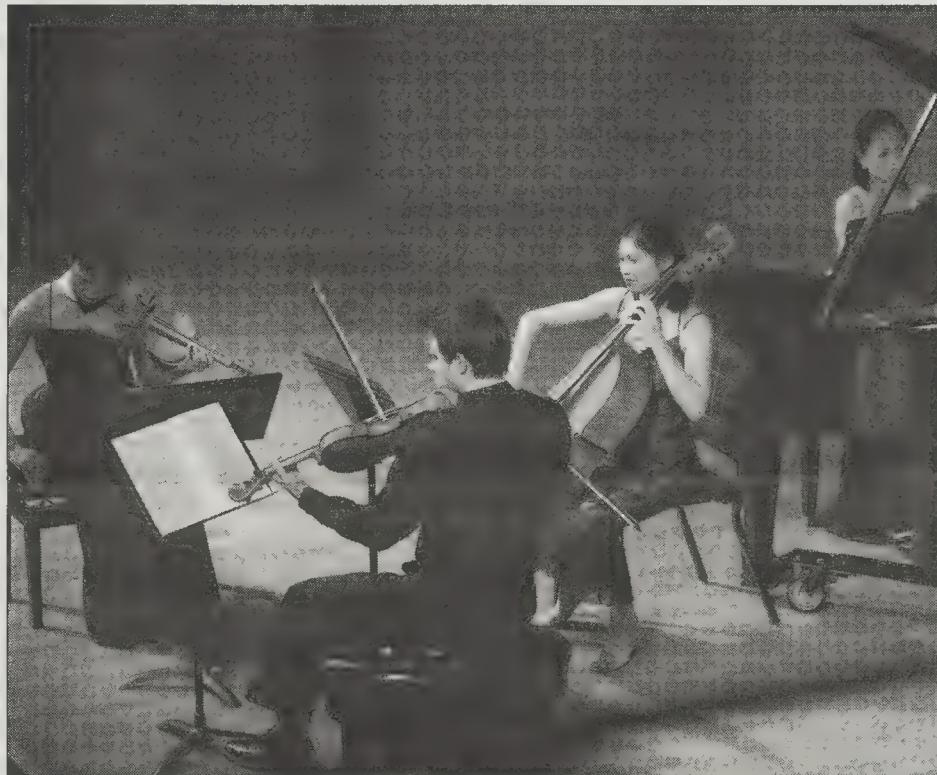
The G Minor Quartet op. 25, which closed the program, is generally gentler music than op. 60. The first movement seems to shy away from the catastrophe found in its C minor counterpart. The second movement is nocturnal in its fun, unlike the op. 60 scherzo’s unrepressed anger. The ensemble took a straightforward approach to these movements. Little sounded labored, and yet little distinguished their interpretation. Both Murray and Wang were slightly too restrained, neglecting at times to play forte when instructed to — perhaps to save energy for the closing movements.

Thankfully, the group let itself be carried away by the final two movements. If Brahms ever wrote an opera I imagine his love duet would sound something like the Andante

movement of op. 25. The piano part seems to be written for a Baritone and the violin, unless I’m an overactive listener, has a feminine charm to it. The ensemble communicated this rapture effectively. They took a refreshingly brisk pace for the Andante’s march-like tangents.

In both Brahms works, Wang was occasionally inaccurate in blocky, chordal passages, but tended to redeem herself in the fast, wiry portions of the score. She made the exhausting whirling of the “Rondo alla Zingarese” look easy. Occasionally, one wondered if she was cheating on chords (especially in the finale), omitting an octave for the sake of speed. This would be unfortunate, but who cares? The famous “Rondo” sounded sleek and colorful, taken at a speed just tipping on abandon.

I recall that Pei-Yao Wang has performed at Middlebury at least twice in the past three years, each time with a different ensemble. One of these performances featured the other Brahms Piano Quartet, op. 26 in A major, which was not as auspicious as the Brahms Quartets heard last weekend. One can hope that “Sophie Shao and friends” stays together for posterity.



Andrew Ngew, Photo Editor

Cellist Sophia Shao plays seamlessly with Tai Murray, violin and Eric Nowlin, viola.

Controversial gallery space to re-open

By Alexxa Gotthardt

SENIOR STAFF WRITER

2008 marked the emergence of several new art galleries at the College. The Center Gallery, the gallery at Old Stone Mill and 51 Main have joined the Johnson Gallery, the Gamut Room, and various temporary guerrilla spaces in a burst that recognizes a desire for a more roomy existence for student art on campus. While most of the aforementioned spaces have turned out numerous exhibitions in recent months, the Center Gallery, a space devoted to student art produced exclusively outside the classroom, has fallen off the radar. This week, after a semester-long hiatus, the Center Gallery announced it will reopen in mid-February.

In August, the young gallery located in McCullough Student Center closed temporarily due to renovations outlined in the College’s comprehensive strategic plan. The plan for the multi-use student center included the refurbishment of the reception area outside the building’s Social Space that, since May 2007, has doubled as the Center Gallery. The gallery is run jointly by the Middlebury College Museum of Art (MCMA), the Center for Campus Activities and Leadership (CCAL) and a committee of selected students and faculty members.

Since its inception, the Center Gallery has faced several challenges driven in large part by its high-traffic location in McCullough. While the gallery actively sought out a centralized campus site in hopes to attract more frequent student visitation, issues of spacial

distinction quickly arose. Though art decorated the walls, the space still seemed to exist as a corridor between two established College hangouts — the Grille and the Social Space. According to Curator of the Center Gallery and MCMA Graduate Intern, Elyse McNiff ’08, the slated renovation came as a welcome opportunity to distinguish the gallery from its more prominent neighbors.

CCAL Director, Doug Adams, MCMA Museum Designer, Ken Pohlman, McNiff, and members of Facilities, worked together to come up with a design plan for the space that included changes in furniture, carpeting, wall space, lighting and signage. The changes, now executed, aim to at once distinguish the gallery, and render it more approachable.

“Doug, Ken, and I want to make the space more inviting and accessible — allow

created outside the classroom, the question seems to remain whether students are in fact visiting the spaces that display their peers’ work. Lack of student visitation has also been a challenge for the other arts establishments at the College, such as the Johnson Gallery and the MCMA.

According to McNiff, the Center Gallery hopes to further bolster the identity and appeal of the space with formal exhibition openings and gallery talks by exhibiting artists. Additionally, McNiff mentioned a desire for increased correspondence and collaboration between the various galleries on campus. The next exhibition at the Center Gallery, a solo show of prints by art major Sam Dakota Miller ’08.5, is set to open in mid-February.

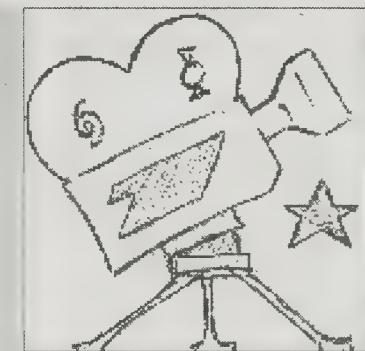
January’s calendar is also rife with student art exhibitions. In the Johnson Pit, “City of Your Dreams,” a collaboration between students in a January Term glassblowing class and the 2009 Cameron Visiting Artists opens Jan.

20. In Johnson Gallery, Madeleine Terry’s ’09 senior thesis exhibition of large-format color photography opens Jan. 23, with an opening reception at 5 p.m. An exhibition at Old Stone Mill commemorating Martin Luther King Jr. opens Jan. 16 and a group photography show at 51 Main will be up until the end of the month.

**We also wanted the Center
Gallery to have its own identity.**
—Elyse McNiff ’08

people to enter, stay, walk around, and engage in the artwork,” said McNiff. “It is in a highly trafficked area, so we also wanted the Center Gallery to have its own identity so it is seen for what it is — a gallery — not just a walk-through space.”

While the rise of Center Gallery and other new exhibition spots responds to a student demand for gallery space for art



THE REEL CRITIC

by Jessica Kissinger

MOVIE | *Mister Lonely*
DIRECTOR | Harmony Korine
STARRING | Diego Luna & Samantha Morton

A forlorn little film, “Mister Lonely” whizzed in and out of theaters, and yet, despite its rather quirky premise — the story primarily concerns a commune of impersonators — the film teems with melancholic beauty as director Harmony Korine performs an incredible visual experiment, setting historical and literary figures fully decked out in exuberant costume against the gloomy Scottish countryside.

“Mister Lonely” opens when a dejected Michael Jackson (Diego Luna) meets Marilyn Monroe (Samantha Morton) while performing at a nursing home in Paris. After spending the afternoon together, Marilyn invites Michael to live on a commune. They arrive at a lush farm in the highlands topped with a luxurious castle where Charlie Chaplin (Denis Lavant), Abraham Lincoln (Richard Strange), Buckwheat (Michael-Joel Stuart) and the Pope (James Fox), among others, tend to animals and the land and put on a variety show. Korine joins this narrative with a secondary story about nuns who jump out of an airplane without parachutes to prove their faith in God.

The two plots never meet; however, be it a story about faith in God or the refuge of a commune, both share the notion that illusions mask human frailty. With these illusions, characters forget that, in Marilyn’s words, “it takes longer to live than to die.” Korine expertly highlights this idea by coupling the characters’ suspension of reality with visual suspension, frequently dipping into slow motion or allowing the wind to catch the nuns’ robes and lift the hem of Marilyn’s white dress.

The film brims with several tangential episodes that contribute more to a philosophy than a plot. Soon after Michael joins the commune, men in full body suits, fit more for toxic chemicals than veterinary work, extract blood samples from the sheep, determining that the animals are infected and must be killed. Abraham Lincoln decides that it would only be appropriate for the members of the commune to kill the animals, so they all huddle together for the death of the sheep as the three stooges shoot them execution style.

Most of the characters have private moments with the camera, which Director of Photography Marcel Zyskind takes full advantage of by stringing together a series of stunning (though disassociated) images. These private shots seem to stand outside of time, briefly seizing a character’s interiority, just as Michael attempts to slow time and capture others’ essential selves by speaking into his tape recorder. His thoughts become a sparse narration that wafts over film like the highland haze.

Though decked in fantastical attire, all of the actors give fairly muted and internal performances, the only exception being a short tempered Lincoln who laces his every phrase with more four letter words than standard English ones. Still, much stirs beneath sad-eyed smiles of these characters — especially the ever-tragic Monroe. “Mister Lonely” becomes an examination of human frailty and loneliness, a film that speaks to quiet sadness and an odd sense of beauty that accompanies the dejected.

Men's hockey takes out frustration on Skidmore

Middlebury power play gives Panthers early lead against Thoroughbreds

By Peter Baumann

OPINIONS EDITOR

Even in a game where the margin of victory seems to indicate a blowout, it is often difficult to pinpoint the exact moment when the tide turned and the outcome was decided.

While the scoresheet says the Skidmore Thoroughbreds lost to the Middlebury Panthers 4-1 on Jan. 10, in truth they were done in by a single botched line-change — a simple task that lead to a penalty for too many men and a Middlebury power play.

At this point, with Middlebury down 1-0 after a half period of play, the Panther power play came alive and used precision passing between point-men Michael Kretschmer '11 and Jamie McKenna '09 to befuddle the Skidmore penalty kill.

With less than a minute remaining on the penalty, McKenna walked in from the corner and slid the puck in front where John Sullivan '10 banged it home in the ensuing scrum.

"The power play goal against Skidmore was huge for us," said McKenna. "To be able to convert on three chances on Saturday was a huge boost for our confidence and energy level."

That goal unleashed a fury of activity from the Panthers that resulted in their dominating the next period-and-a-half of play.

By the time the second period had come to a close, Middlebury headed to the locker room with a 4-1 lead that it would never relinquish.

The Panthers' power play evoked images of dominant Middlebury teams of old,

using their advantage in speed and quickness to skate circles around the Thoroughbred defense.

Even more telling, however, was the way in which the Panthers outworked their opponents. With renewed intensity, Middlebury won every loose puck and pounded Skidmore with a ferocious fore-check.

Having suffered a disappointing defeat to Castleton St. the night before, Middlebury needed this victory.

On paper the team has all the ingredi-

time.

To find Middlebury's recipe for success, one need look no further than Middlebury's third goal of the afternoon.

Following a dump-and-change, Charlie Townshend '10 chased a Skidmore defenseman behind the net, forcing a turnover with a powerful

[Artie] just kept going and going, battling in front and eventually he found the puck and popped it in. Goals like that are just as important as the pretty 2 on 1 goals.

—Jamie McKenna '09

ents of a national championship contender: good goaltending, strong defensemen with great passing skills and a stable of quick, intelligent forwards with which to wear down the opposition.

But none of this matters without the effort the Panthers displayed during that

MEN'S HOCKEY

FRIDAY, JANUARY 9

Middlebury	1
Castleton State	2

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10

Middlebury	4
Skidmore	1

period and a half on Saturday afternoon. When they play like that, they are as good as any team in the country — capable of dominating play for prolonged periods of

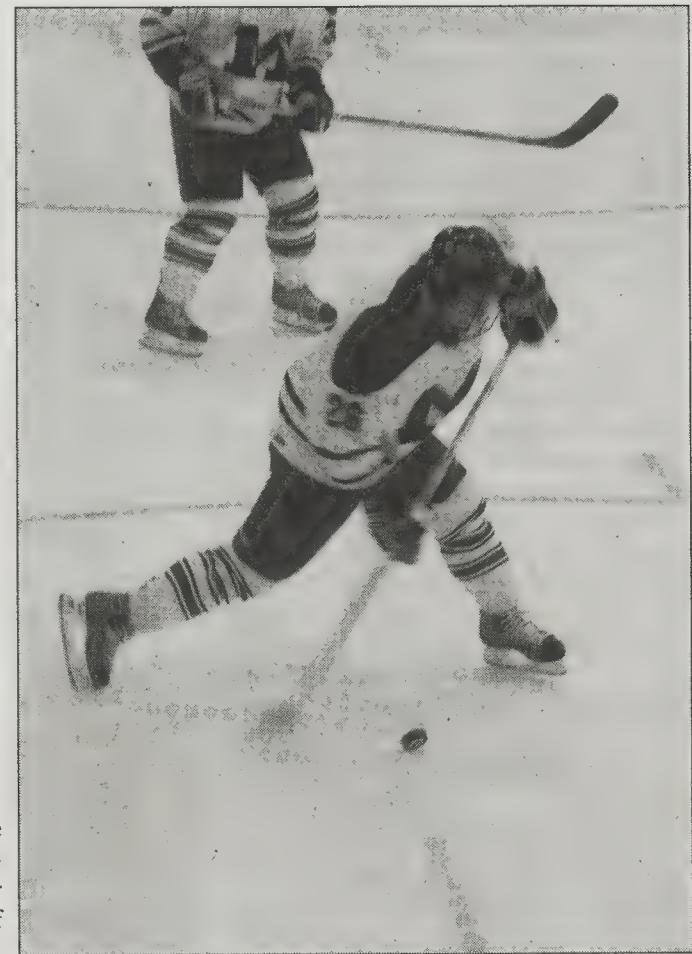
check.

He collected the puck along the side-boards and fed Trevor Dodds '11 in the top of the slot.

Dodds' shot was blocked, but Artie Mittnacht '09 came crashing in from the bench to pound in the rebound and record the first goal of his Middlebury career.

"[Artie] just kept going and going, battling in front and eventually he found the puck and popped it in," said McKenna. "Goals like that are just as important as the pretty 2 on 1 goals."

With an offense predicated on creating confusion through a strong cycle, Mittnacht's goal showcased Middlebury's



Andrew Ngeow, Photo Editor

Leonard Badeau '09 whips a shot against Skidmore on Saturday, Jan. 10. The Panthers thoroughly outplayed Skidmore in their 4-1 win.

renewed emphasis on crashing the net and fore-checking.

With so much movement, it is impossible for opposing defenses to account for forward players searching for rebounds.

As Middlebury enters the meat of its schedule, look for coach Bill Beaney to focus his squad on its performance during the middle of Saturday's game. If the Panthers can play like that, the possibilities are endless.

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Track preps for spring

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22

in the pole vault.

"It was a good first day," said Doug Mackey '11, who competed in his first meet for the Panthers. "Hopefully we can carry this into next weekend and build on it."

The women had a very similar day to the men, scoring only a few points but giving a number of strong performances. Katy Magill '11 led the Panthers in the 400-meter at 1:01, coming in just ahead of the rest of the women's strong middle-distance core. Captain Kelley Coughlan '09 scored a point with a triple jump of 11.02 meters.

The other point for the women came from the 4x400-meter relay team, made up of Magill, Grace Close '11, Rebecca Fanning '12 and Julia Sison '12, who came in at 4:13.

This middle-distance group is one of the bright spots on the team, and led primarily by underclassmen, it is a group that is likely to continue coming up big for the Panthers in the future.

"We have a lot of depth in the middle distance girls this year," said Close. "We have a good group of girls and we ran well today."

Another bright spot from the weekend was the high number of those who qualified for the Division III New England's.

For the men, Dede qualified in the pole vault,

John Montroy '12 in the 60 meter hurdles, and for the women, Coughlan qualified in the triple jump, while Close, Magill, Sisson, Fanning, and Kara Montbleau '12 all qualified in the 400-meter. Mia Martinez '12 qualified in the 60-meter hurdles and Allison Astolfi '11 qualified in the long jump.



Andrew Ngeow
Roz Vara '10 eludes a defender and drives to the bucket on Saturday against Skidmore.

Ashley Barron '09 tenaciously drives to the hoop against a Skidmore defender.

Andrew Ngeow, Photo Editor



Andrew Ngeow

Roz Vara '10 eludes a defender and drives to the bucket on Saturday against Skidmore.

Women reach .500 as NESCAC play looms

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

In each of their last three games, the Panthers have outrebounded their opponent, something that attests to the team's increased physicality and grittier play around the rim as of late.

The continued success of the inside game will undoubtedly be crucial as the team takes on the NESCAC conference.

"I have the utmost confidence in my team and our ability to perform well in league play," said Johnson.

In particular, the two team captains, Barron and Johnson, can easily catch fire at any given time. They will remain, both in leadership and skill, essential to Middlebury's success.

PANTHER SHOREBOARD

Date	Sport	Vs.	Results	Comments
1/09 1/10	Women's Hockey	Colby Bowdoin	2-1 W 8-1 W	Women's hockey remains a conference powerhouse with two convincing wins and solid goalkeeping.
1/10	Women's Basketball	Skidmore	69-57 W	A Panther barrage of baskets and free-throws down the stretch sealed the win for the women.
11/22 11/23	Men's Squash	Williams Dartmouth	9-0 L 9-0 L	Despite the losses, men's squash put up a strong showing against these reputable opponents.
11/22 11/23	Swimming & Diving	Colby	M: 181-89 W: 179-101	Both the men and women performed well in their victories over the Mules, carrying 22 of 29 possible first-place finishes.
1/08 1/10	Men's Basketball	Colby-Sawyer Skidmore	65-55 W 72-62 W	The pair of wins brings the men's winning streak to eight games and a 12-2 record on the season.

12/13 BY THE NUMBERS

173	Difference in points between Middlebury and Bates in the men's swimming and diving victory on Jan. 11.
995	Total number of points scored by the men's basketball team as of Jan. 15.
2.2	Average number of goals allowed per game by the men's hockey team this season.
1.6	Average number of goals allowed per game by the women's hockey team this season.
10	Number of collective shutout victories for the men's and women's squash teams.

Editors' Picks



Guest athlete of the week

Guest editor of the week

Questions	Jeff Klein	Kevin Carpenter	Emily Johnson, W. Bball	Peter Baumann, Opinions
Will the men's basketball team extend its winning streak this weekend to 10 games?	YES I have the utmost confidence in the men's basketball team right now.	YES Bates and Tufts? Please. Men's team is money right now.	YES The Bobcats will cap off their five hour drive with a serious beating in Pepin Gym, where the boys have yet to lose this year.	NO Just to play the contrarian.
Will the men's hockey team shut out Colby this Saturday, Jan. 17?	NO I need to see some more consistent results before we can start talking about shutouts.	NO There is no doubt the Panthers will win, but Colby has had success with putting a few points on the board.	NO The Mules have scored nine goals over their past two games. The Panthers will win but not with a shutout.	YES But only if they display the effort they put forth in the 2nd period last Saturday.
Will the women's squash team win both matches against Bowdoin and Colby this weekend?	NO I'm gonna say they get the split.	YES The squad pulled out some big Sunday plays in wins over Bates and Mt. Holyoke. I'm keeping the faith.	YES After knocking off #11 Bates and #12 Mt. Holyoke last weekend, the women will have no problem with #13 Bowdoin and #14 Colby.	YES Sure, why not? Emily's research is good enough for me.
Will LeBron James drop over 30 points against New Orleans this Friday, Jan. 16?	YES I know I wrote a column last month questioning his greatness, but the man can undoubtedly score.	YES Long live the King.	YES After a 38-pt. performance against Boston, the King will surely make it 'reign' against New Orleans.	NO I love the play on words though, Emily. Want to submit an op-ed?
Who will win the NFC Championship game, the Arizona Cardinals or the Philadelphia Eagles?	CARDINALS Now that the G-Men are out, I'm looking for ex-Giant Kurt Warner and the Cardinals to go all the way.	CARDINALS Kurt Warner has had an impressive season and I've always been a softie for the underdog.	EAGLES Do you even have to ask? I'm from Philadelphia...	THE IGGLES Wow, it's been a while since I've seen a sub-.500 record below my name...
Career Record	46-55 (.455)	0-0 (.000)	0-0 (.000)	17-28 (.378)

Women salvage weekend for squash teams

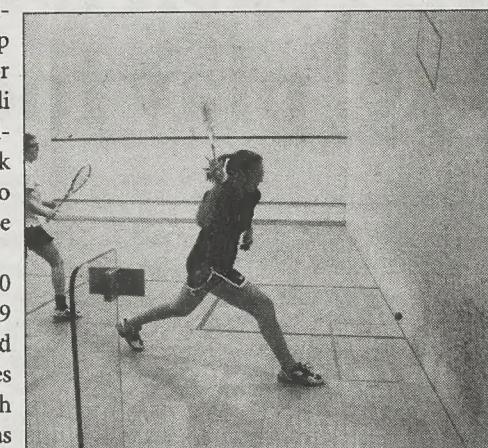
By Kevin Carpenter
SPORTS EDITOR

The men's and women's squash teams finished a tumultuous weekend against a set of seasoned opponents. Both squads took losses to Williams and Dartmouth on Saturday with the men going down 9-0 and 9-0, and the women falling 8-1 and 8-1, respectively.

The men's team fell 9-0 to Bates in the Sunday match but the women's team managed to pull out two impressive victories against Bates and Mt. Holyoke with a pair of 5-4 wins.

Despite the loss to perennial powerhouses Dartmouth and Williams, the men put up a solid effort. Senior co-captain J.P. Sardi '09 and first-year Valentin Quan '12 took their opponents into the fourth game in the Williams match.

Micah Wood '10 and Ben Broad '09 played very close and contested matches against Dartmouth but ultimately fell as the ninth-ranked Big Green shut out the Women's squash posted wins over Bates and Mt. Holyoke.



Eleanor Horowitz

The men also took an unfortunate loss after a battle with Bates. Despite a 9-0 defeat, the squad put up a noteworthy stand with six of the nine Middlebury players taking their opponents to a tiebreaker or extended game.

The women fought an equally tough fight against Dartmouth and Williams that included some outstanding individual play. Senior tri-captain Caroline Woodworth '09 won her

match against C. Kaemmer of Williams in four games and first-year Jamie Burchfield '12 won her match against C. Lindseth of Dartmouth in three straight games.

"Aided by the support of fans, we played a higher level of squash against Dartmouth and Williams at home on Saturday," said tri-captain Brooke Farquhar '09. "Our fans helped us put up a good fight against two tough teams."

Sunday saw a stunning turnaround for the women's squad as it inched out two victories in close matches against #11 Mt. Holyoke and #12 Bates.

"The matches we played against Bates and Mount Holyoke at Williams yesterday solidified our rumored reputation as the up-and-coming team in this season's B flight," said Farquhar.

Both matches came down to a final, climactic game to decide the victor.

Kathryn Bostwick '12 battled back after falling behind in her #5 match to seal the 5-4 victory over Bates.

In similar fashion, Avery Tilney '09.5 sealed the Panther victory with a convincing four-game win over Mt. Holyoke's L. Lue Yen.

Farquhar noted that in her win, Tilney distinguished herself by "hitting incredible drop volleys with such skill that will be forever remembered by the team as the 'Tilney-touch'."

The pair of Sunday wins brought the women to a 10-4 record on the season while the set of losses dropped the men to an even 5-5

record.

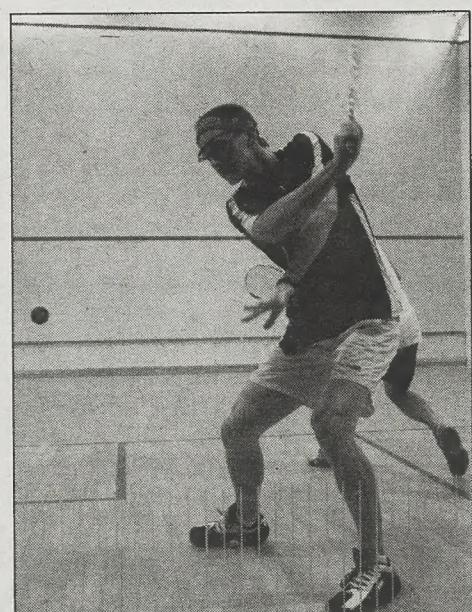
Despite the tough losses, the Middlebury men's and women's squash teams are quickly gaining national recognition as they battle closely with many seasoned, reputable teams.

The men currently hold the #21 spot in the country in just their second season as a varsity squad. The women are experiencing a great deal of recognition as well.

"Despite our losses to two tough teams at home on Saturday, we brought home two big 'W's last night and have fought our way up the ladder to the number eleven spot in the country," said Farquhar.

"We're excited to prove to other teams we belong there this weekend at Yale."

The men's and women's squads will travel to New Haven, Conn. for the Yale Round Robin Jan. 17 and 18.



Eleanor Horowitz

While not victorious, the men's squash team hung tough with the likes of Williams and Dartmouth.

Panther women serve as role models for middle schoolers

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

themselves as college students later on in life. Basketball is not the only thing that links these girls together. Other more important aspects of life, such as their dreams and aspirations, connect them as well.

"After a few rounds of playing Shipwreck, we realize we watch the same television shows and movies, and then after pizza, we find out some of the younger girls are interested in what we study in college," said Barron.

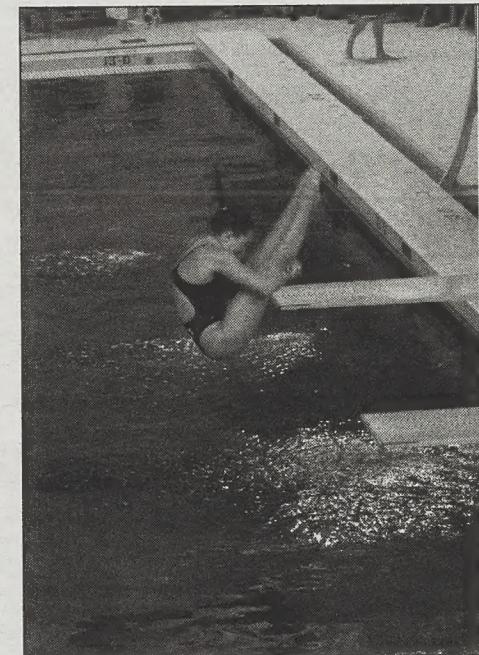
"We also understand the stress levels that middle school basketball girls deal with, whether it is about boys or parents," added Fallon.

For the last seven years, Middlebury has been involved in this Sisters in Sport program.

"On top of the demands of academics and a sports schedule, Noreen's team finds time to visit the seventh-grade team, run clinics for them and root for them at their games," said Christina Ellison '86, the director of Sisters in Sport. "The middle school girls, in turn, visit the college and come to one of the women's home basketball games."

Besides basketball, there is also a ski mentoring program under the Stride foundation. One program called Snow Stars Alpine enrolls disadvantaged elementary-school girls from Ripton and Middlebury in ski lessons at the Middlebury College Snow Bowl. The other is Snow Stars Nordic, in which the Middlebury College female ski instructors and the cross-country ski team serve as mentors, and that brings the young girls to the Rikert Ski Touring Center at Breadloaf.

"The aim of Sisters in Sport is to get girls hooked on sports so they learn the lessons and reap the benefits of a healthy activity that will pay them back over their entire lives whether it's through improved self-esteem, a decreased chance of breast cancer, less likelihood of teen pregnancy or drug use, or a better chance to become a leader," commented Ellison.



Andrew Ngeow, Photo Editor

The Middlebury women's swimming and diving team scored two convincing wins over Colby and Bates this weekend.

Men, women make a splash

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

400-yard inter-medley. Katie Soja '10 returned from abroad as strong as ever, placing first in the 500-yard freestyle and third in the 400-yard inter-medley.

The Middlebury women divers — Lena Halliwell '12, Meagan Collins '12, Bobbi Heidbreder '09, and Susan Read '09 — swept the diving board results, further contributing to the Panthers' margin of victory over the mules. The women left the pool with success and began to mentally prepare for the meet against Bates the following day.

The swimming and diving teams are away competing at Hamilton next weekend where they hope to build on their success. O'Rourke explained that "the team chemistry right now is incredible," adding that "[Assistant swimming coach] Andy Weinberg is an incredible addition to this team. He fell right into our program and has elevated people's work ethic and encouraged people to try harder."

With strong team chemistry and a respected coaching staff, the Middlebury swimming and diving teams clearly have the capability for continued success.

Women's hockey takes two

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

performances for the weekend were certainly by points leader Vitt, who tallied six points over the weekend, and Bergman, who had four points.

"This weekend's games were great for us. We had quite a few career first goals, Nora and Molly played great hockey, and the team worked well together to earn two decisive wins," said goaltender Wright. "The team is really starting to come together as a group, and the freshmen are starting to step up and contribute a lot on and off the ice."

The Panthers are currently ranked third in the latest U.S. College Hockey Online poll and number two in the NESCAC behind Amherst. The squad looks forward to playing a strong 7-2 Trinity team next weekend that is nipping at their heels.

"If we keep playing the way we are, we should have a great two games against Trinity and continue to improve throughout the rest of the season and hopefully beat the teams we struggled against earlier."

Hopefully the team can use its momentum to secure February wins over both Plattsburgh and Connecticut College, whom they tied, and the strong Amherst team who handed the team its only loss this season.

The way the Panthers are continually improving has them poised to be strong contender for a national championship once again this year, as they are eager to bring home another title.



Andrew Ngeow, Photo Editor
Coach Pecsok and her squad make their impact felt both on and off the court.

Indoor track opens season at Dartmouth

By James Schwerdtman

STAFF WRITER

The Middlebury track team traveled to Dartmouth this past weekend for the 40th annual Dartmouth Relays. The Dartmouth Relays attract schools from all over New England and Canada, and even some running clubs and schools as far as Wheaton.

The Relays were not only the first meet of the indoor season for the Panthers, but also the first for many of these athletes in a Middlebury uniform. This year's team is very young, with high numbers of first-years and sophomores.

We had a lot of first-year runners out here today and there were a lot of very good performances. I'm proud of how we're coming together as a team.

—Ben Fowler '09

meets for the indoor season, so the competitions Middlebury enters, much like the Dartmouth Relays, are larger events with bigger, typically Division I programs.

Nevertheless, there were many impressive performances and the Panthers were able to come away with a few points for both the men and the women.

"We looked pretty good today," said Ben Fowler '09. "We had a lot of first year runners out here today and there were a lot of very good performances. I'm proud of how we're coming together as a team."

The strong performances that Fowler was quick to point out came from Addison Godine '12, who ran the 800-meter in 2:02, and Max Mackinnon '09, who ran the 3000-meter in 9:22.

A number of jumpers also had strong performances for the Panthers. Robbie Athan '10 and Nick Montello '12 had long jumps of 5.77 and 5.72 meters, respectively, and Adam Dede '11 scored a point for the Panthers with a vault of 3.97 meters

SEE TRACK, PAGE 21

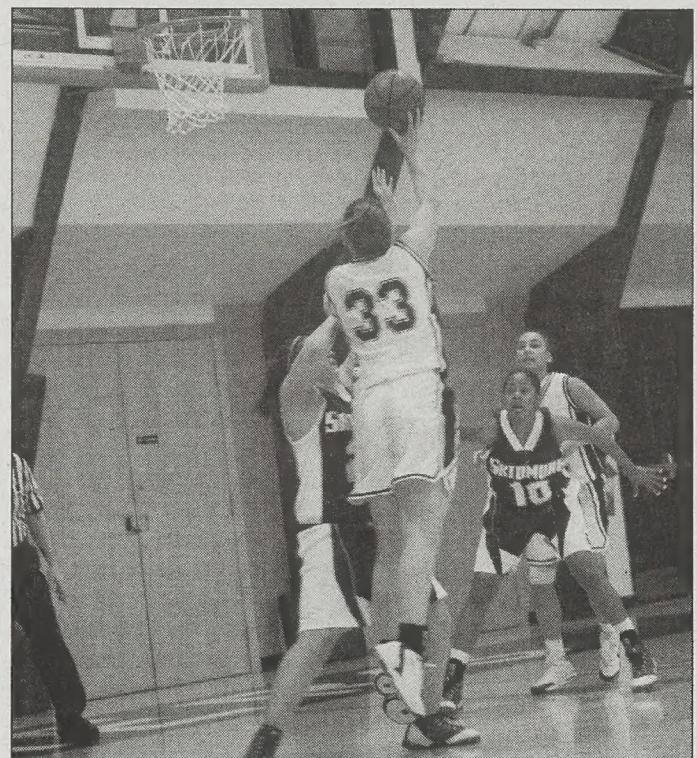
Women's basketball secures big win

By Jeff Klein
SPORTS EDITOR

The Panthers are heading into conference play on the right note.

With a balanced scoring attack and several solid late-game stands, the Middlebury women's basketball team earned a 69-57 win over Skidmore at Pepin Gymnasium on Jan. 10.

The victory evens the Panthers' record at 6-6, only the third time the team has been at least .500 on the year.



Andrew Ngew, Photo Editor
Allison Needham '11 puts up a runner against Skidmore on Saturday.

Yet the boost could not have come at a better time for the Panthers, who begin NESCAC play this weekend. They hit the rode for Bates this Friday and will square off against Tufts on Saturday.

It wasn't easy getting there. The Skidmore Thoroughbreds came out of the gate racing, using an early 8-0 spurt to give them a 16-9 lead at the 13:08 mark.

One of the signs of a good team is the ability to withstand pressure and not fold when the other team grabs the momentum for a period of time. Middlebury was able to counteract Skidmore's run with an 11-1 run of its own.

The spurt gave the Panthers a 20-17 lead with 9:06 remaining in the first half.

Neither team could permanently seize the upper hand. The lead seesawed back and forth throughout the rest of the half, and Middlebury took a tenuous 34-31 lead going into the half-time break.

Following the trend of the first half, the second half immediately began with one team grabbing hold of the momentum, as Middlebury put together an impressive 8-0 run.

Kaitlyn Fallon '10 was instrumental in the spurt, as her pair of

hoops gave the Panthers a 41-33 advantage early in the second stanza.

Again, though, that lead did not last long. Skidmore narrowed the lead to a single point three different times, and Laura Michael's bucket with 6:03 left finally deadlocked the contest at 54 apiece.

But that would represent the last signs of life the Thoroughbreds would see on this afternoon.

The Panthers went on their second 8-0 run of the half behind two clutch baskets from Alana Wall '10, which gave them a 63-54 lead with just 2:45 left to play.

The best way for a team with a lead late in the game to put the nail in the coffin is to hit its free throws. That's exactly what Middlebury did, going four-for-four from the charity stripe in the game's waning moments to cement the 69-57 victory.

"I think the key against Skidmore was our patience offensively," said co-captain Emily Johnson '09. "Against any full-court press and zone defense it is possible to get impatient but we stuck to running our stuff and it paid off for us in the end."

Johnson netted nine points, including a perfect six for six from the line, and Lauren Sanchez '11 and Brittany Parfetti '12 each scored eight to complete the balanced Middlebury attack.

Now the Panthers face a tall order as they prepare to do battle with Bates Bobcats, who are 10-4, and the Tufts Jumbos, who sport an even more impressive 9-1 record heading into NESCAC competition.

But none of that will deter the Panthers, who have their own reasons for being confident after their strong play as of late.

SEE WOMEN, PAGE 21

Panthers pounce on Thoroughbreds

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

to get any closer. Solid free-throw shooting down the stretch from Ben Rudin '09 led to the Panthers' 10-point margin of victory.

Rudin led Middlebury in both points and assists – 19 and 6, respectively – and also pulled down eight rebounds in 34

MEN'S BASKETBALL

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10

Middlebury	72
Skidmore	62

minutes of action. Dudley had 16 points and Tim Edwards '09 added 10.

According to Smith, the team's defensive play and experience were the keys to victory.

"I thought our defense overall was pretty good," he said. "Although our offense struggled at times, our defense kept

us ahead. We definitely used our experience to our advantage in finding a way to win even after Skidmore made a couple runs at us."

Saturday's game, however, made clear several areas in which Middlebury must look to improve.

"We can definitely improve on creating more transition points," said Smith. "Because we have such a deep bench, we need to do a better job of beating teams down the floor and getting easy baskets. Also, we need to sustain a high level of energy the entire game."

The Panthers begin NESCAC play with two home games, hosting Bates on Friday night and Tufts on Saturday afternoon.

Having won eight straight games, the team is confident and eager to extend the streak.

Still, like every motivated team, the

Panthers are wary of overconfidence and know that they must improve to reach the high goals they have set for themselves.

"We do have a momentum boost going into conference play," said Smith, "but we know we have a lot to work on. In the NESCAC, any team can win or lose on any given night so we really have to be focused for each game."

"We have played great team basketball both offensively and defensively during the eight-game winning streak," commented Dudley, "but also realize that we need to play better to have the kind of success we expect in the NESCAC."

"We're an experienced team and we know how tough it is to win the NESCAC," Smith concluded. "But we have been preparing for that goal all season and we're excited to start working towards it."

sportsbriefs

Middlebury football team keeps the accolades coming

Post-season honors were awarded to three members of the 2009 Middlebury men's football team. Brendan Kelly '09 was named a third-team All-American and Andrew Matson '09 and Charles Holm '09 received All-ECAC honors.

Brendan Kelly lead the top offense in the NESCAC in the offensive line. The all-star protection provided by the All-East player lead to an offense that generated 34.4 points per game and 445.4 yards of total offense/game. Kelly started all eight games on the season and helped the Panthers finish 5-3.

Andrew Matson averaged 110.4 receiving yards/game with 883 total receiving yards on the season. The Academic All-American recorded eight touchdowns in the season with 52 catches, his longest tallying 65 yards. In addition to receiving yards, Matson accrued 920 all purpose yards, including rushes and punt returns.

Charles Holm, leading tight end for the Midd offense, was also selected as first-team All-NESCAC. Playing in six games, Holm racked up 27 receptions for 243 totally receiving yards. Averaging 40.5 yards/game, Holm had breakout performances against Amherst and Williams, in which he caught for 78 yards.

These post-season honors are in addition to eight All-NESCAC selections announced in November. The talented group helped lead the Panthers to third place in the NESCAC.

— Kevin Carpenter, Sports Editor

Start of Season on Horizon of Ski Teams

The official start of the Middlebury alpine ski season is fast approaching with the team's first race Jan. 23 at the Bates Carnival. The team is coming off an impressive fifth place finish at NCAAs Championships at Montana State in March of 2008. The 529 point score marked a school-best.

The Middlebury cross country ski team ran into some adverse weather in their recent trip to the U.S. Cross Country Ski Championships in Anchorage, Alaska. Races were set to start on January 3 but temperatures of -15 F led to the cancellation of Saturday's classic sprints and a shortening of Monday's freestyle skate race. The men's race was cut from 15 km to 10 km as a result of the inclement weather.

The International Ski Federation dictates that a cross country ski race may not be commenced if the temperature is below -4 F.

Several races were postponed until Thursday Jan. 8. The Middlebury team had a fair showing as several skiers experienced the effects of such cold racing weather.

— Kevin Carpenter, Sports Editor

Molly Vitt '09 gets NESCAC Player of the Week

Senior defensemen for the women's hockey team, Molly Vitt '09, has been named NESCAC Player of the Week for her outstanding performance this past weekend.

Vitt played a crucial role in the Panthers' two key road victories over Colby and Bowdoin. Overall, Vitt earned a total of six points for the weekend, including two goals and four assists.

Against Colby, Vitt was set up by Grace Waters and Anna McNally, and scored the game-winning goal in the Panthers' 2-1 triumph. The following day, Vitt exploded with a goal and four assists in Middlebury's 8-1 rout over Bowdoin.

Vitt's numbers speak for themselves: she currently leads the NESCAC in assists per game (1.33) and is second in the conference in overall points per game with 1.78.

— Jeff Klein, Sports Editor

The Middlebury Great Eight

Rank	12/04	Team	Carpenter's Comments
1	5	Men's bball (12-2)	Eight in a row = top of the Great Eight.
2	3	Women's Hockey (7-1-2)	I'll take Molly Vitt and her six points on the weekend for \$2,000, Alex.
3	4	Squash (M:5-5)(W:10-4)	Women's squad picks up some slack with two crucial 5-4 victories on Sunday.
4	2	Men's Hockey (8-2)	Good win against Skidmore but the first loss in history to Castleton St. still hurts.
5	6	Women's bball (6-6)	Win against Skidmore brings the women's team to .500. So, they got that goin' for them, which is nice.
6	7	Swimming & Diving	After two convincing victories the teams are shedding their floaties for the deep end.
7	—	Skiing	Season has yet to start but already giddy in anticipation of Panther dominance on the slopes.
8	—	Indoor Track	Not the strongest of starts but the squad will get back on the winning track (pun intended).



Laurice Fox
Eight wins in a row was good enough to land men's basketball atop this week's Great Eight.

Men's basketball tops Skidmore, wins eighth straight

By Jeff Klein
SPORTS EDITOR

The Panthers are in the zone right now.

Thwarting several comeback attempts by its opponent, the Middlebury men's basketball team bent but did not break in a 72-62 home win over Skidmore this past Saturday, Jan. 10.

With the victory, the Panthers have now won eight games in a row heading into conference play this Friday.

"We have been a very confident team from the beginning this year," said Kyle Dudley '09. "We enter each game thinking we are the better team and that we are tough to beat when we play hard and execute our game plan for 40 minutes."

Aaron Smith '09, who finished with nine points to go along with nine boards, concurred.

"If we are intense and active on offense and defense for 40 minutes," he said, "we are an extremely tough team to beat."

Despite the fact that they were playing the Thoroughbreds, it was the Panthers who came out of the gate racing, as they jumped out to a commanding 21-5 lead.

The combination of Middle-

bury's efficient offense and suffocating defense made it seem as if this would be an easy day for the Panthers.

However, that did not prove to be the case. A 10-2 run by Skidmore, including three straight buckets from Bobby Langford, cut the Panther lead to 25-17 at



Laurice Fox
6'10" tower Andrew Locke '11 lays the ball up over helpless Skidmore defenders.

the 5:09 mark of the first half. Middlebury extended its lead back to 11, but a serendipitous three-

pointer by Sam Cohen-Devries as time expired got Skidmore to within 32-25 at the half.

The intermission did not diminish the Thoroughbreds' momentum. A slam dunk by Langford at the 14:32 mark cut the Middlebury lead to one as Pepin Gymnasium grew unusually quiet.

Yet the Panthers once again showed their strength and mental fortitude in tough situations.

Skidmore could not get a shot off on its ensuing possession, and Middlebury then went on an 8-0 run, sparked by three pointers from Dudley and Ryan Wholey '11.

Dudley finished the game with four threes and continues to be an explosive weapon on the offensive end.

"It's a great feeling hitting a three and hearing the home crowd cheering," said Dudley. "It increases intensity on defense and gives more confidence on the offensive end. It's a lot of fun and it's great to have the support from the fans."

Skidmore closed to within five on a pair of free throws, but Middlebury clamped down and did not allow the Thoroughbreds

SEE PANTHERS, PAGE 23



Laurice Fox
Kyle Dudley '09 was a force against Skidmore, draining four threes for a total of 16 points. His efforts led the Panthers to their eighth straight victory.

Women's hockey crushes Bowdoin

By Alex Lovett-Woodsum
STAFF WRITER

The Panthers returned from their Maine road trip victorious, with NESCAC wins over both Colby College and Bowdoin College this weekend, bringing them to a solid 5-1-1 overall NESCAC record.

Friday's victory against Colby was a nailbiter, with forward Erika Nakamura '09 scoring a goal at 8:34 in the first period with help from Heather McCormack '10 and Nora Bergman '11, and Molly Vitt '09 putting one in at 13:59 in the second period with assists from Grace Waters '12 and Anna McNally '11. Junior goaltender Lani Wright '10 managed to hold the Mules to one goal in the third period to secure the win for the Panthers.

The Panthers proceeded to trounce Bowdoin on Saturday with a decisive 8-1 victory. Vitt came out strong and scored a goal 1:29 min-

utes into the first period and assisted on three more before the period ended. Bergman scored twice in the first, and defenseman Molly West '10 earned her first career goal to round out the period. First-year Corey Cooper '12 scored the lone goal in the second period to give the Panthers a 5-0 lead.

Haley MacKeen '12 scored her first career goal for the Panthers early in the third period, followed by a goal by Bowdoin's Kate Pokrass to end the shutout. A third Panther first career goal belonged to Jamie Harisiades '12 in the third period, followed by McNally scoring one more goal on the powerplay late in the third period to wrap up the game.

Panther goaltenders Lexi Bloom '11 and Becca Shaw '12 combined for 21 saves, with Bloom letting up the lone Bowdoin goal in the third period. The standout

SEE WOMEN'S, PAGE 22

Women's basketball helps local girls

By Nicole Lam
STAFF WRITER

This weekend, the Middlebury women's basketball team came away with a 69-57 victory over Skidmore. But head coach Noreen Pecock did not make the practices any easier for the week just because of the win — it was just another week of work as usual. However, there was one special surprise this past Tuesday — the Middlebury Union Middle School girls' basketball team got to attend the Panthers' practice and see just what it takes to take their games to the next level.

Under the foundation "Stride: The Wright Foundation for Female Athletes," the two teams get to spend time together throughout the season, attending each other's games and practices and striking up friendships. This provides the chance for female athletes like Ashley Barron '09 and Kaitlyn Fallon '10 to become role models for the younger girls. In turn, the junior high students get to spend a day just hanging out and eating pizza with the big girls. Benefits are reaped on both sides. Overall, the program seeks to encourage the young girls to stay committed to playing sports and doing well in academics.

Coach Pecock explained that the goal is not to have the middle school girls just focus on playing basketball but also to envision



The Middlebury women's team meets up with the local middle school team.

Courtesy

SEE WOMEN'S, PAGE 22

Swimming and diving wins with ease

By Molly West
STAFF WRITER

The Middlebury swimming and diving teams started off the new year victoriously with strong wins over the Mules of Colby College on Jan. 10.

The men won 181-89, and the women 179-101. Last year, both teams comfortably beat the Mules, and Mary Roberts '09 explained prior to the competition that "these meets allow us to experiment with new lineups and have people swimming different events than they typically would."

The teams trained in Florida after Christmas, where they swam on average 15,000 meters a day — equivalent to almost 10 miles. Although the training in Florida put the team in great shape, Kevin O'Rourke '09 fearfully expected "most of the team to be pretty sore and broken down" because of the intensive training. However, nobody

could sense the soreness of the team on Saturday, as the Panthers swam with strength and confidence throughout the meet.

On the men's side, Zach Woods '09 had a strong performance, placing first in the 50-meter backstroke, second in the 200-yard backstroke and second in the 100-yard inter-medley. The rookie men's swimmers also impacted the results, as Kazu Asaga '12 came in first in the 50-yard butterfly, followed by teammate Adam Schaffer '12. Nick Daly '12 also put forth an impressive performance, coming in first in the 50-yard freestyle and second in the 100-yard freestyle.

On the diving board, Brooks Farrar '11 remained on top, placing first in the 3- and 1-meter dives. Jack Dinning '11 followed Farrar and added to the scoreboard, coming in second in the 1-meter dive.

The Middlebury men also took home the 400-meter relay, comprised of Schuyler Beaman '10, Schaffer, Mac Staben '11 and Daly. Overall, the men ended the day successfully and went home to rest for the following day's competition against Bates.

The women also displayed a strong performance on Saturday. Em-

ily McDonald '11 competed particu-

larly well, placing first in the 50-yard

freestyle, first in the 50-yard butterfly

and second in the 100-yard butterfly.

Alyssa Ha '11 also performed ex-

cellently, placing first in the 100-yard

freestyle and butterfly, and first in the

SEE MEN, PAGE 22



Alex Lin-Moore
The men's swimming team had an outstanding weekend against its opponents.

this week in sports

game to watch

Men's basketball vs. Tufts
Saturday, Jan. 17 at 2 p.m.



Men's Basketball

Team scores big win over Skidmore heading into NESCAC play, page 23.

SEE PANTHER, PAGE 22

Men's Hockey

Team bounces back from loss to Castleton State, decisively defeats Skidmore, page 20.

